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40p

G7 summit takes hardline stance against Baghdad's ceasefire defiance

Bush backed on use of force against Iraq

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND MICHAEL BRYN

PRESIDENT Bush yesterday won the unanimous support of his G7 summit colleagues for the renewed use of military force if President Saddam Hussein continues to defy the ceasefire agreement and the resolutions demanding the destruction of all Iraqi nuclear weapons.

James Baker, the US Secretary of State, said: "We think we have strong support for taking the steps required in order to see compliance with United Nations resolutions."

He said the agreement followed "discussions on the fringes" of the formal sessions between the leaders of the seven leading industrialised nations in London. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, yesterday gave an unambiguous promise that Britain would participate in any action to ensure that Baghdad complied with the West's demands.

"I hope the Iraqis are not in any doubt that the international community does not

intend to allow Iraq to develop nuclear facilities which might be turned to military purposes. We are going to make sure one way or the other that Iraq does not become a nuclear power," he said.

No decision had been taken about renewed military action against Iraq's nuclear facilities, because new information supplied by Baghdad after the setting of the July 25 deadline was being evaluated. Mr Hurd said that he doubted whether Iraq's latest action would be sufficient. "We think there is still evasiveness," he said.

His remarks reflected the increasingly hardline stance taken by all the Western leaders at the summit. Their declaration, issued after a day of talks that focused largely on the Middle East, said that they would maintain sanctions until all the UN Security Council resolutions had been implemented in full.

The summit declaration said that the Iraqi people "deserve the opportunity to choose their leadership openly and democratically", a statement that was seen as a further incentive to the Iraqi people to overthrow Saddam. Mr Hurd said in an interview later that it was hard to imagine Iraq "getting back into full relationships with other people under the present ruler."

That is not a threat, or an appeal, it is a statement of fact, and I hope that the Iraqis will find a way of acting on it.

The foreign secretary said, however, that the G7 leaders did not want to inflict starvation or illness on the Iraqi people and they would continue to allow food and medicine to be sent to the country. He suggested that there would be no softening of the embargo that prevents Iraq from selling oil to buy Western goods. "We do take a pretty robust line on maintaining sanctions," he said.

During a series of meetings and luncheons, the seven leaders and their finance ministers also co-ordinated their response to the proposals President Gorbachev will present today for Western help in reforming the Soviet economy.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said last night that the industrial countries needed to make a constructive response, but the chief responsibility for solving the problems of the Soviet Union lay within the country itself, as Mr Gorbachev recognised.

Mr Baker said that there was no question of the Soviet leader going away empty-handed. The West would not, however, provide for the transition to a market economy by giving assistance to a disintegrating centrally planned economy. He said the summit leaders appreciated Mr Gorbachev's courageous efforts in freeing Eastern Europe and reforming his country, but "in strictly economic matters we have to say where our interests are."

Mr Lamont said they had not discussed particular aid projects to the Soviet Union — only general areas where technical assistance could be given, such as on energy conservation and food distribution. He said that the summit would propose that the Soviet Union should become an associate member of the International Monetary Fund.

British government sources said that almost all of yesterday afternoon's discussions focused on the Soviet economy. Few other concrete steps to help Mr Gorbachev were agreed, however. British officials appeared to be more reserved about the prospects for Soviet assistance than the other summit participants. "There will be no pot of gold for Gorbachev tomorrow," one said. John Major will hold a day of bilateral talks with the Mr Gorbachev once the other leaders have departed.

The Soviet president's attempts to gain permanent Continued on page 24, col 5



Sealed with a kiss: Sir Jimmy Savile forms a fleeting friendship with Barbara Bush

Sir Jim fixes a secret meeting

By JOE JOSEPH

AT FIRST it seemed like a slip-up in the summit timetable. Surely it was Gorbachev who should be meeting Sir Jimmy Savile and asking him to fix it for Mikhail, aged 60 and from Moscow, to squeeze a few million dollars out of the West in exchange for... well, let's see, in exchange for saying thank you, at the least.

But it was the summit wives who found themselves in front of the peroxide blond, yodeling former disc jockey at Stoke Mandeville hospital in Buckinghamshire yesterday, all hoping for a large Jim'll Fix It medalion. What would Barbara Bush like Jim to fix? A sturdy heart for George? If not, then an IQ for Dan?

We were not allowed to cavendish for security reasons. Jim kissed Barbara's hand and asked how she was. "Great," replied Barbara and hooted with laughter, proving how adept you get at social chit-chat after a short time on the diplomatic circuit.

Sir Jimmy, who raised £10 million to build the hospital's spinal injuries unit, then turned to Norma Major. What would she like Jim to fix? "I want..." she seemed to begin, and she, too, drifted off of earshot. Then it was off to lunch at Chequers. No press allowed at the table.

BA denies cash to Tories over open sky policy

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ROSS TIEMAN

THE government pledged last night to continue opening up air routes to wider competition after British Airways announced yesterday that it is to withhold its £40,000 contribution to the Tory party in protest at ministerial decisions that helped its rivals.

Lord King of Warrnaby, the BA chairman, did not rule out making contributions to Labour in future. He made the decision after the government had backed a move to hand some of BA's precious landing slots at Tokyo's congested Narita airport to Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic.

Labour exploded Tory embarrassment by rallying to BA's cause. John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, said that the government's dogmatic obsession with privatisation and regulation of profitable routes that had opened BA to competition from Virgin and American operators had undermined BA's ability to serve a full network of routes.

Mr Branson said ending BA donations to the Tories was tantamount to "a spoilt child playing at blackmail". If BA could not stand competition, perhaps its management should step down rather than resort to "bully-boy tactics".

A statement from Conservative Central Office said: "This is entirely a matter for British Airways." It went on: "The government has supported competition in air transport in the United Kingdom, Europe and beyond. We will continue to do so. Our policy has been greatly to the benefit of customers and airlines."

Privately, ministers were annoyed by Lord King's tactics. It was being said that industry backed the Conservatives due to their belief in free enterprise. To suggest that donations could influence particular decisions was wrong.

BA and the Tories, page 2
Profits slump, page 25

Bank's governor on BCCI mission

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN Leigh-Pemberton, the governor of the Bank of England, has flown to the Gulf in a last-ditch effort to defuse the argument with the ruler of Abu Dhabi over the closure of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI).

The Abu Dhabi authorities yesterday issued a strongly worded statement which said that they "deplored the unjustified action taken by the Bank of England".

They threatened that they would take action against Price Waterhouse, BCCI's former auditors, who last month warned the Bank of England of a massive fraud at BCCI. Mr Leigh-Pemberton is believed to have met Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, the ruler of Abu Dhabi, and Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan, the crown prince, and their advisers to explain why the Bank decided that it was vital to close BCCI.

Sheikh Zayed's family, the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and the Abu Dhabi government together own 77.4 per cent of BCCI. He is due to fly back today and will meet MPs tomorrow to justify the Bank of England's actions. BCCI, which had assets of \$20 billion (£12 billion), was closed in an unprecedented swoop by bank regulators around the world. The Bank of England is coming under increasing pressure from MPs, depositors, and former BCCI staff to reveal the reason for its action but it is prevented by law from revealing the details of the fraud uncovered at the BCCI.

The governor's visit and the sheikh's statement show that previous meetings in London with the Abu Dhabi authorities have failed to convince them that the action against BCCI was necessary. Brian Smouha, the accountant from Touche Ross, who is organising the worldwide shutdown of the bank, failed to gain the sheikh's support in a trip to Abu Dhabi at the weekend.

The Bank of England said it was continuing its dialogue with the Abu Dhabi authorities. The Bank of England is trying to persuade the sheikh to fulfil his guarantee to support the bank and compensate BCCI's 1.25 million depositors for the losses suffered in the massive fraud at the bank.

Enquiry launched, page 2
Sheikh's action, page 25

Saddam fooled nuclear agency experts

Primitive techniques can help small countries to produce nuclear bombs, reports Nigel Hawkes

Iraq was able to conduct a large and clandestine effort to build a nuclear bomb while getting a clean bill of health from the international agency charged with policing the nuclear non-proliferation treaty because of the reluctance of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to demand the right to special inspections.

As recently as last December, IAEA inspectors visited Iraq and came away satisfied after being shown only the facilities the Iraqis wanted them to see. "Western intelligence was caught with its pants down," said Debra Holland of the Nuclear Control Institute in Washington, a public policy research group.

David Fisher, a former assistant director-general of the IAEA, said the agency needed much sharper teeth. "It has the right to call for special inspections, but has never done so. Now it has got to go further, and have the right to challenge inspections like those written into arms control treaties."

Last year the Foreign Office, growing suspicious of Iraqi assurances, was ready to demand a special inspection by the IAEA if the Gulf war had not broken out first. Like others, however, it has been staggered by the scale of the Iraqi effort revealed since a defector told American intelligence what was going on. Iraq appears to have spent several billion dollars on its secret programme.

Leonard Spector of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, an expert on nuclear proliferation, is one of many troubled by the disclosures. "Before I tended to have higher confidence that we were observing everything. Now Continued on page 24, col 2

Bomb fears, page 12

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Israel agrees to UN role in peace talks

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL yesterday signalled its willingness to compromise over a key stumbling block which has stalled the American peace initiative in the Middle East.

In a dramatic departure from existing government policy, a senior official source stated for the first time that Israel would lift its objection to United Nations participation in a proposed regional conference if Syria's offer to negotiate directly with the Jewish state was genuine.

"We have waited 43 years for direct talks," said the official, who described Israel's desire for dialogue with its Arab neighbours as the "eleventh commandment". "In a situation where the UN is maybe there, one way or another but totally in a passive way, then the floor is open for

direct negotiations." Until yesterday the government of Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, had refused to consider any UN participation in the conference, citing the organisation's pro-Arab bias, in particular, its controversial general assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism.

The Israeli veto of the UN role appeared to have brought the peace mission of James Baker, the American Secretary of State, to a halt because of the insistence by Arab participants, in particular Syria, that the conference be held under UN auspices.

On Sunday, however, President Assad of Syria signalled his willingness to accept the US compromise of relegating the UN to observer status.

Settlements criticised, page 12

Flush mystery buyer spends 35 million pennies

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE property market may be deep in depression, but out of the depths came hope yesterday, when a suburban public lavatory in central London, with vacant possession, sold for £355,000. The buyer's identity is a mystery.

The jubilant auctioneers, Allsop & Co, could scarce refrain from talking of the market bottoming out, as Lot 142, a disused late Victorian convenience for both men and women, situated at the southern end of Charing Cross Road opposite the Garrick Theatre, attracted determined bidding.

Clive Carpenter of Allsops said that the guide price had been well under £100,000, but there had been more than 160 bids, rising often in £500 and

£1,000 lumps, as up to 20 people fought for the privilege of owning it. "Finally there were two bidders who both wanted the convenience badly, and it was knocked down for £355,000. One was a private investor and the other, who got it, was an agent for an English company, but he declined to name the buyer."

A rumour that the buyer was Garfunkel's restaurant chain, which has restaurants nearby, was scotched when the company said last night that it had not bought it. "At that price I am very glad that we have not."

The former convenience, with nearly 1,000 square feet below ground, has planning permission for retail use, and Mr Carpenter thought it most likely to become a book shop or something involved with entertainment or leisure.

The price is four times the previous

highest price for a public convenience. One in Spitalfields was knocked down last year for £85,000, but the sale fell through, and the record is believed to be held by a convenience in Foley Street in the West End of London, bought at auction a few months ago (again from the City of Westminster) for £85,000 by a private individual who intended to convert it into an office.

Not all public conveniences flush out a wealthy buyer. After lot 142 (the Charing Cross Road loo) came its equivalent in Warwick Way, Pimlico, which fetched a modest £26,500.

Allsops were nevertheless delighted with the sale, for 80 per cent of residential and commercial properties, sold for a total of £38.5 million. What a relief!

Property, pages 34, 35



The highly desirable property

TODAY IN THE TIMES

BBC HOSPITALITY

Last year you celebrated the Proms with a particularly unpleasant piece. John Drummond grasps Richard Morrison fondly by the throat Page 15

MEN AS BOYS

Jonathan Aitken's Eton leaving portrait is among those about to be exhibited, though the leaver is less artistic than it was Page 14

A MOSCOW MYSTERY

Banker Dennis Skinner was the listening bank's man in Moscow. But what exactly was he listening for, and who killed him? Page 16

PRIME TIME

Tory MP Teresa Gorman, who seeks damages from an Essex businessman who described her as vain, admitted to a High Court jury she had cut 10 years off her age when seeking selection at Billericay Page 3

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Degrees from Oxford, Durham and Warwick universities will be published tomorrow. In the coming weeks *The Times* will publish degrees from all British universities.

Employers seeking chief executives, managers and other senior staff are advertising tomorrow in our appointments section, which has 12 pages of jobs.

Islanders set up enquiry into BCCI investment

By KERRY GILL

WESTERN Isles councillors last night agreed to set up an independent external enquiry into the investment of £23 million in the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

The enquiry will be headed by Professor Alan Alexander, of Strathclyde University, an expert in local government. His brief will be to discover the circumstances of the investment in the Luxembourg-based bank, which was closed by the Bank of England on July 5.

During an emergency council meeting in Stornoway one member suggested the affair had sunk to a "Hebridean farce". Angus Graham, of Lewis, said that apart from the financial blow it would be "almost impossible for us to claw back our credibility". The meeting, which was told that the bank's collapse could almost triple islanders' poll tax bills, agreed to seek to borrow £23 million over 30 years to make good the loss.

After the meeting was opened more than 150 mem-

bers of the public joined with at least 50 members of the press when councillors learnt the full implications of investing with BCCI. Brian Lawrie, deputy finance director, who stated, "Houdini was a man who did not survive but we will survive," said interest charges on the massive loan, which will have to be permitted by the government, would be almost £3.5 million a year, raising the present poll tax of £77 including water charges to £208 next year. It could be much worse, Mr Lawrie said.

Councillors however told their officials, including the chief executive George Mac-

lead, who remained silent, that the islanders would not stand any increase in the poll tax. "I have been made painfully aware that the buck stops here," Donald Mackay said. George Lonie said: "I have been in touch with tenants' associations who have told me that any move or suggestion to increase the poll tax, they categorically will not pay."

Angus Graham, chairman of the development committee, said: "I think it is going to be almost impossible for us to claw back our own

credibility and that is a big political problem. We have done ourselves no good."

"This council yesterday decided into what was a Hebridean farce and the only person missing was Compton MacKenzie to write about it. We are going to be able to claw back our credibility and we should start that today by being seen to take decisive action," Mr Graham said.

Mr Lawrie told the meeting, in which a roll call of councillors was held in Gaelic, that to write off the £23 million

plus interest in just one year would mean a minimum poll tax increase of £1,100. That, he said, would be totally unrealistic. He said, however, that Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, was extremely unlikely to allow a big increase in the poll tax.

He said an appropriate source of long-term borrowing would be the Public Works Loan Board. It is believed that as much as £17 million of the lost money came from the board. Although it is not illegal to invest money from

the board, it is frowned upon, rather like raising a house mortgage and then buying a car, according to senior Whitehall sources yesterday.

Mr Lawrie said that any course of action would have a severe impact on an already fragile local economy. "Reductions in services or delays in capital projects will reduce money circulating in the islands and undoubtedly lead to further unemployment."

He produced a list of options ranging from having no reduction in services and capital projects to maximum service reductions.

The end result, Mr Lawrie said, would probably be an amalgam of options. The council is hoping that revenue support grant levels will reduce borrowing costs. Reductions will also be sought in savings on pay settlements.

The meeting later went into private session to discuss whether to call for the suspension of the chief executive after agreeing to hold an independent enquiry.

Governor files past, page 1

Sheikh may act, page 25

Councils 'within rights to hide collapse loss'

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CORRESPONDENT

COUNCILS that are concealing big losses in the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International are acting within their rights, the trade and industry department said yesterday.

Accountants co-ordinating action by councils that have lost money estimate that as

many as a dozen local authorities have decided not to publicise their losses.

The Association of District Councils, which has taken the lead in bringing together councils affected by the BCCI collapse, has appealed for local authorities to announce their losses publicly. It believes that 45 councils have suffered losses, but so far only 31 have declared losses, and two of those, Durham City

Council and the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, have yet to put a figure on their losses.

The list was joined yesterday by the States of Guernsey Electricity Board, the publicly owned Channel Islands utility, which said that it had invested £5 million in BCCI.

That brought the loss so far disclosed to £85.6 million and reinforced fears that total local authority losses may exceed

£100 million. It is thought that councils that have not yet announced their losses may be awaiting the outcome of a meeting of councils in London to discuss tactics tomorrow before going public.

The trade department said that section 176 of the 1986 Financial Services Act offered protection to councils seeking not to disclose BCCI losses on grounds of commercial confidentiality. However, the

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy said that councils would have to go public so as to seek to recover assets from liquidators, and that in any event, the losses could not be hidden in the long run.

● Oxford lost £140,000 in the BCCI collapse, it was disclosed yesterday. The aid charity had put the sum into a BCCI account to fund projects in Senegal two days earlier.

Mackay turns down plea for more judges in High Court

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor yesterday flatly turned down a strong plea by the country's most senior judge for more High Court judges to ease the courts' workload.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, head of the judiciary, refused to grant a request by Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, to appoint any more High Court judges; or to concede, as Lord Lane said, that part-time (deputy) judges were being used to hear cases that "they should not properly be trying at all".

His rejection will infuriate senior judges. One law lord, Lord Oliver, believes the continuing use of deputy judges by the Lord Chancellor may be in breach of the law. He points out that the Supreme Court Act 1981 gives power to use deputy judges only on a temporary basis. Lord Ackner says that next September there will be no High Court judges available to try non-jury civil cases as they will all be tied up with other work.

Yesterday, the Lord Chan-

cellor accepted that an extra (fourth) division of the Court of Appeal should sit regularly to cope with a growing number of cases, but felt that it should be staffed from existing numbers. There was no need to appoint more judges because the continuing reorganisation of the courts system would release the necessary staff and resources.

Lord Mackay also denied that he was failing to lend appropriate support to the Lord Chief Justice in his task; and, by implication, that there was any rift between them.

Asked if relations with Lord Lane were strained, Lord Mackay replied: "I see the Lord Chief Justice regularly and I have every confidence in him. The Lord Chief Justice has a very heavy burden of work of very demanding quality and I do my very best to support him in that work."

He added that he understood well the pressure under which the Lord Chief Justice and his fellow judges worked, particularly in courts like the Court of Appeal criminal division.

Last week, Lord Lane called for more judges in the face of what he said was an inordinate use of High Court deputies. Such was the shortage, he said, that deputies were trying cases involving £1 million or more, medical negligence and other cases, that they should not be trying at all.

In his response yesterday, Lord Mackay denied there was any attempt to "starve the court of resources" so as to hold up applications for judicial review, by which government and public authority decisions are challenged. On the use of part-time judges, he said it had been traditional for the Lord Chief Justice to use deputy judges for High Court work. There might be scope to examine the arrangements for ensuring that cases were being tried at the appropriate level.

Lord Mackay said that in his two-year period of office he had already appointed an extra five High Court judges, four Lords Justices of Appeal and 49 more circuit judges. Waiting times for trials had also been significantly reduced: they were now the lowest in London for 14 years (10 weeks for defendants in custody) and "that is a very important achievement".

Annual report: Lord Chancellor's department court service, annual report 1990-1 (Stationery Office, £12.20)

Militant enquiry to widen

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

A SECOND Labour MP, Dave Nellist, could be caught up in the party's new investigation of Militant, senior Labour sources disclosed yesterday.

Mr Nellist, MP for Coventry South-East, spoke out yesterday in support of Terry Fields, the failed MP for Liverpool Broadgreen, and said that consideration was being given to an appeal against his 60-day sentence for refusing to pay the poll tax.

The two men have long been regarded as Militant sympathisers, an allegiance they have never denied. Action against Mr Fields had been expected after his refusal to back the official candidate in the Walton by-election.

Now it has emerged that an investigation ordered on Monday by Labour's organisation committee into Militant will go far wider than its involvement at Walton and cover supporters elsewhere.

Party sources disclosed that Joyce Gould, Labour's director of organisation, would inevitably look at Mr Nellist's position. Senior party figures believe it is time to bite the bullet and act against both men.

Yesterday Chris Paton, the Conservative chairman, called on Mr Kinnock to move against the other 23 Labour MPs who signed a statement from Mr Nellist backing the campaign against paying the poll tax.

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Names and numbers: Kenneth Clarke with pupils from Arnewood school, in Hampshire, holding the names of the first 99 grant-maintained schools

Clarke celebrates 100th grant-maintained school

KENNETH Clarke, the education secretary, yesterday celebrated the hundredth school to be given grant-maintained status as the Labour party explained to head-

teachers why it would immediately return such schools to local authority control (David Tyler writes).

Jack Straw, Labour's front-

bench education spokesman, told a meeting in London of 24 opt-out heads that a Labour government would not be vindictive and would not interfere with the day-to-day running of their schools. He had no argument with teachers, parents or children and would do nothing that would damage their education.

Mr Clarke, meanwhile, speaking at Arnewood school,

New Milton, Hampshire, the hundredth school to opt-out, said that the school, a mixed comprehensive with 1,100 pupils, was at the beginning of a sweeping reform. "Grant-maintained schools are now an established part of the education landscape," he said.

There are 62 grant-maintained schools with another 36 approved but not open. A

further 61 have published proposals and another 48 have voted yes. Ballots are pending at 28 schools.

● Dorset teachers are being asked to fill in a questionnaire on job stress with one question asking if they have considered suicide. The confidential survey being sent to one in ten of the county's teachers asks: Have you re-

cently felt that life isn't worth living; has the idea of taking your own life kept coming into your mind; have you found yourself wishing you were dead and away from it all?

The survey is being circulated by Peter Gedling, county education officer, and Alex Middlemas, of the joint standing committee of teacher associations in Dorset.

Report says squad faked confessions

By CRAIG SETON

A NEW enquiry into the disbanded West Midlands serious crime squad said yesterday that there was evidence of malpractice in handling criminal investigations and concern that other cases had not come to light.

The enquiry was conducted by a team based in the faculty of law at Birmingham university, backed by a grant from the Civil Liberties Trust. The report, published yesterday, said that in all 67 cases examined there were allegations of fabricated confessions. In virtually all cases that went to trial, an alleged confession was the cornerstone of the prosecution and in many cases an uncorroborated and disputed confession was the sum total of the crown's evidence.

The enquiry's report recommends that uncorroborated confessions should not be admitted in court unless supported by other evidence, and that confessions should be tape or video-recorded before being admissible.

Former members of the squad said yesterday that the report was irrelevant and inaccurate, and West Midlands police said it had been produced by an unofficial and self-appointed body. The report was written by Tim Kaye, lecturer in law at Birmingham university, and two colleagues, supervised by a committee that included Clare Short, Labour MP for Birmingham Ladywood, the Rt Rev Mark Santer, Bishop of Birmingham, and a Law Society member. Disagreement over its contents are thought to have delayed publication.



Clare Short, MP, launching the new report on the West Midlands serious crime squad yesterday

Watchdog fails to laugh at BR joke

By MELINDA WITSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail was criticised by the Advertising Standards Authority yesterday for confusing passengers by advertising a special fare deal showing a destination without a station.

A poster showed six couples in wedding costumes at Greta Green, the Scottish village famous for its register office. But after complaints BR admitted there was no station at Greta Green.

The advertising watchdog said: "The presentation was clearly humorous, but the advertisement was likely to cause confusion. Future advertising should feature only locations served by a BR station or make clear if this was not the case."

A number of healthcare advertisers have also been

convinced by the authority for making misleading claims in newspaper and magazine advertisements, promising readers instant cures for everything from arthritis to asthma.

In one case an advertisement placed by the Homeopathic Foundation, which claimed that "homeopathy is widely recognised throughout the world as a safe and effective medicine to cure asthma", was deemed misleading after the National Asthma Campaign and the Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear hospital and three others complained to the authority.

The advertiser should not have claimed homeopathy was a suitable cure as it was unable to provide any evidence in the form of clinical trials to demonstrate that it had any beneficial effect on asthma, the authority said.

Another complaint against Inch By Inch, which claimed a single 15-minute session of "magnetotherapy" would help cure arthritis, asthma, backache and diabetes, was also upheld after the company failed to substantiate its claims to the authority.

CORRECTION

Cumbria county council was wrongly included in a table of councils facing losses from the collapse of BCCI, published on July 16. The table was based on information supplied by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. The county council says it has no money invested with BCCI.

The bitterness at BA that stopped a Tory party cheque

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SINCE privatisation in 1987, British Airways has provided two fixed points in the Conservative party's political constellation. A large cheque has helped boost party coffers and the airline has hosted a lavish party at the Tories' annual conference.

Yesterday, one of those certainties ended with the announcement by Lord King of Winton, chairman of BA, that Conservative Central Office would not receive its annual payment of between £40,000 and £50,000 this year.

As an undisputed admirer of Margaret Thatcher and who has frequently been referred to

as her favourite businessman, Lord King's motives were immediately the subject of speculation at Westminster and in the aviation world.

Was the announcement the end of a relationship that had been particularly close under Mrs Thatcher but had soured since her departure because of government decisions to open up Heathrow to greater competition?

Or was Lord King, once renowned for his skills in the lobbying at Westminster and Whitehall, hedging his bets over the likely outcome of the next general election? Others suggested that with a slump in

pre-tax profits and 4,600 redundancies, he had produced a propaganda coup by sending a donation that had the potential to generate bad publicity. Smith Square itself announced last month that it was £5 million in debt.

Few doubt that recent government decisions have left British Airways and Lord King in a bitter mood. The close friendship he enjoyed with Mrs Thatcher has not been repeated with the new tenant at 10 Downing Street. Senior government sources said yesterday that while John Major knew Lord King, he did not know him "terribly well".

Others in Whitehall suggested that "generational" changes within government would make for a less easy relationship with the 72-year-old Lord King who steered BA to stock market flotation as a flagship of the Conservative's privatisation programme. BA insisted that personal relationship between Lord King and Mr Major was good.

However, there was little attempt to conceal that the friendship was not as warm or close as with Mrs Thatcher.

Much venom was being spat in Lord King's direction from Conservative MPs. Sir Robert McCrindle, a member of the

Conservative backbench aviation committee, said of the ending of financial support: "This does not come as a total surprise because Lord King has not concealed his displeasure at some of the recent policy decisions by the government in relation to the use of Heathrow. Under no circumstances have I ever believed that a donation to the Tory party should be a means to buy favourable decisions."

"I can only regret the rather sour reaction of Lord King and remind him that he has always been anxious to persuade us that competition is the name of the game. Perhaps

he should practise what he preaches."

As for Lord King switching his financial loyalty to the Labour party, that prospect remains dim. As the chairman of Britain's leading air firm, he has built relationships with leading Labour politicians but last night BA sources said Neil Kinnock should not expect Walworth Road's funds to be boosted by a cheque from the company.

"We are keeping our own money in our own pockets," a BA spokesman said.

Opening air routes, page 1
Profits slump, page 25

Libel case Tory MP admits taking ten years off her age

By DAVID YOUNG

THE Conservative MP Teresa Gorman, who is claiming libel damages from a businessman in her Essex constituency for describing her as vain, yesterday admitted lying about her date of birth to appear ten years younger.

Mrs Gorman also told a jury in the High Court of the day she stood in the Commons and felt "like Alice in Wonderland" as the man ordered her to show his guests around and later lined them up beside the former prime minister Lord Home to have their picture taken.

Mrs Gorman said she was born in 1931 but agreed that the details she sent to the selection committee to be elected Tory candidate for Billericay in 1987 made it 1941. "It is extremely difficult for women of 50 or more to be taken seriously in life. Women are considered to be over the hill while men are thought to be in their prime. I did not

think I would have much chance of being considered if they thought I was rather old but I felt I was well up to the challenge and I wanted to give myself the best chance I could."

She said that during the election in June 1987 there was some publicity given to her lying about her age and the fact that she underwent hormone replacement therapy.



Gorman: "I was well up to the challenge"

app. The MP was giving evidence on the second day of her claim against Anthony Mudd, an accountant aged 60, over a mock press release that he circulated to more than 100 Tories in her constituency.

She says that the release, written as though from her, suggested that she was vain. It also referred to her "hormone implants". Mr. Mudd, of Billericay, denies libel. He says that the document was true and fair comment.

Mrs Gorman said of the release: "I knew it was not a tease or a joke. It was a serious attempt to undermine my position and reputation. He sent it to key people who were meant to influence. It seeks to humiliate and ridicule me."

Mrs Gorman says that Mr Mudd wrote the release to discredit her and restore his association to the favoured position it held before she became MP and ended its valued dining perk. Her counsel, James Price, has told the jury that she disapproved of Mr Mudd's "abuse" of the privilege by including it as one of the outings in paid-for stays at his home.

Mrs Gorman said that dining at the Commons was a fund-raising treat and a strictly controlled privilege. But before she became Billericay's MP Mr Mudd had used more than her predecessor's entire allocation for his Billericay Conservative businessmen's club. She said: "To do it on a regular basis, four times a year as if you were popping into a local cafe, seemed almost an abuse of privilege."

She told the jury of one day when she attended a Commons dinner. She said that Mr Mudd ordered her to entertain his guests, who had paid up to £1,800 to stay at his home for a week.

Briton and his wife murdered in France

FRENCH police have started a nationwide murder investigation after the discovery of an English businessman and his wife strangled in a wood (David Young writes).

The bodies were found on Friday morning by an elderly couple who were picking mushrooms. The dead man and his Dutch wife had been bound and gagged in woodland at Uzereche, near Limoges. Tulle police believe that the stranger had killed them some miles away.

The victims were Leslie Chorlton, aged 47, and Clejine Bernadette Chorlton, aged 31. Mr Chorlton, originally from

Hyde near Fordingbridge, Hampshire, had lived in France for two years. He had previously lived in South Wales.

Commandant Bernard Maury, of Tulle police, said that the dead couple had been found in woodland about 60 miles from their home in the hamlet of La Garnaude, near Cressensac.

Mr Chorlton was found bare-chested with his feet bound. He also had adhesive tape covering part of his face. Neighbours of the couple had alerted police after becoming alarmed at not having seen them around their home.

£1m buys a tax-free haven

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

TWO of the smallest Channel Islands for sale.

Lihou has one main house and a cottage covering 40 rocky, windswept acres; it is half a mile west of Guernsey, to which it is linked by a tidal causeway. Jethou, three miles east of Guernsey, has a manor house and two cottages on 50 acres. Sir Compton Mackenzie, author of *Whisky Galore*, once lived there.

Both islands have tax-free status, because they are owned by the Crown and because their tenants do not own property on Guernsey, although that situation could change. Knight Frank & Rutley is asking (with Lovell & Partners) about £950,000 for the 16-year lease on Jethou and over £1 million for Lihou. "They are both very special places. Lihou wilder, Jethou

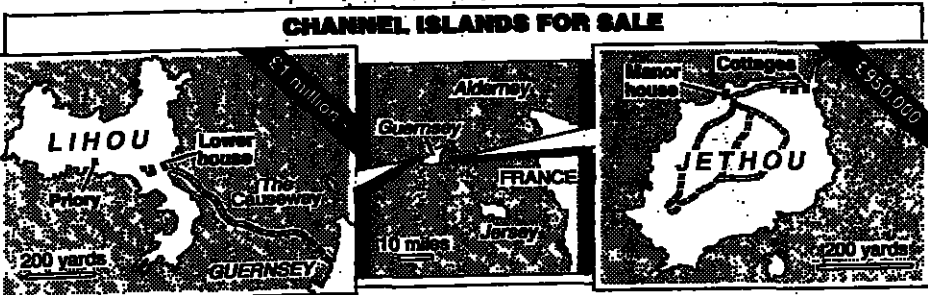
more civilised, and it is impossible to offer two at the same time," Roddie Farnham of Knight Frank & Rutley said yesterday.

Lihou island is held on a Crown lease in perpetuity, and provided that the "fee farm rent" of £3,43 is paid each year to the Receiver General, the lease is renewable every 21 years. The owners are Robin Borwick and his wife Patricia, who bought it in 1983 after breeding donkeys in Berkshire, moving to Malta and thence to Guernsey. Mrs Borwick said yesterday: "The island is totally unspoilt, with just birds and flowers for company. It is as romantic as it sounds, an extraordinarily magical island, with a most amazing atmosphere."

Lihou is a botanist's paradise, with more than 100

different species of grasses, heathens, ferns and wild flowers, and with 127 birds listed. The island also contains the ruins of a 12th-century Benedictine priory and the remains of a small watch tower built during the Napoleonic Wars. The original 19th-century house was destroyed during the second world war but was rebuilt in 1978.

The owners of Jethou, Antony and Geraldine Duckworth, have their main home in the Cayman Islands, and they are moving because of Mr Duckworth's work there; but they have spent up to six months of the year there since buying it eight years ago. "Jethou is lovely because you can be alone in the peace and quiet, although the mainland is only 15 minutes away," Mrs Duckworth said.



Police officer in poll tax riot case is accused by judge of perjury

By PETER VICTOR

A POLL tax protester who was alleged to have set fire to a Porsche and a Jaguar during the demonstration in central London which came to be known as the Battle of Trafalgar was cleared yesterday when a judge accused a police officer of perjury.

Judge Rucker said that he would be sending details of the evidence of PC Shaun Carrebrown, aged 23, to the director of public prosecutions to see if perjury charges should be brought against him.

The judge told Southwark crown court that the evidence of PC Carrebrown, based at Lee Road police station in Lewisham, southeast London, and a member of the police territorial support group, was in "tatters and rags". He said it had undermined the Crown case against Neil Fernandez, aged 26, a student, of Sutton, Surrey, who was accused of setting fire to the cars and assaulting PC Carrebrown during the disturbance on March 31 last year. He directed the jury to return not guilty verdicts on Mr Fernandez.

Judge Rucker said the only other evidence — photographs

showing Mr Fernandez near the Porsche shortly before it was set on fire — was not enough for a properly directed jury to convict. "There is a police officer who in my mind has committed perjury," the judge said. PC Carrebrown's evidence was totally discredited in terms of time and place. This prosecution is fatally flawed. The photographs in my judgement reveal no more than perhaps a very high degree of suspicion, but that is not enough."

The acquittal came on the second day of the trial during PC Carrebrown's cross-examination. The officer claimed he saw Mr Fernandez, acting suspiciously near the Porsche, trying to light the petrol tank of the Jaguar and throwing a bottle, which hit him on the back of the leg.

Dexter Dyas, for the defence, said, however, that the officer's timing of the three incidents was inaccurate. Mr Dyas said that for the officer to have seen his client near the Porsche in St Martin's Lane, he would have had to have been able to see around a street corner, through railings

and over a clump of trees. At this point the judge intervened and dismissed the jury, saying of PC Carrebrown's evidence: "There may be parts where it is mistaken rather than untrue. But as to reliability it is in tatters and rags and frankly worse."

Brian Stork, for the prosecution, said the Crown was prepared to withdraw the arson charge involving the Jaguar and the assault charges because it conceded the officer was not a reliable witness. Kapil Jui, of Birnberg and Co, the solicitors representing Mr Fernandez, said that the firm sifted through police and fire brigade log books to compare the recorded events with PC Carrebrown's evidence.

Although all logs from police vans had been destroyed the firm managed to obtain fire brigade logs and the record of all calls made to Scotland Yard's communications centre. They realised that PC Carrebrown was claiming the incidents took place at least an hour before the two cars had even been

parked in the area. In his evidence, PC Carrebrown said the car fires started before an unrelated fire at the nearby Higgs and Hill building. Fire brigade logs indicated their first call about that fire was at 5.04pm. Peter Goldberg, owner of the Porsche, said he parked his car in St Martin's Lane shortly before 6pm.

PC Carrebrown also said the alleged assault by Mr Fernandez took place after the Porsche fire, while he was trying to assist a WPC who was being attacked by a mob. The defence showed, however, that the WPC had been treated at St Thomas' hospital at 5pm.

After the hearing Mr Fernandez said he intended to sue the Metropolitan Police commissioner for false imprisonment and malicious prosecution.

Scotland Yard said it was waiting for details of the perjury allegations. A spokesman said: "We have not received any details of the complaint. But if and when we do we will investigate."



Coats from Franka, in houndstooth check and in bronze brocade with fake fur, open London's haute couture season



Faux fur to the fore as ladies decide

By LIZ SMITH
FASHION EDITOR

THE opening of London's haute couture season yesterday was turned into Ladies' Day as Baroness Jan de Staël von Holstein, otherwise known as the designer Franka, opened a three-day schedule of shows and launched a streamlined new line for next winter. Later came a typically dramatic presentation entirely in black and white staged by another of London's top designing women, Lady Weinberg (Anouska Hempel).

It was left to the ladies to define what they and their friends who make up London's high fashion clientele want to wear. At Franka, where the front-row line-up at one show included the Duchess of Gloucester, Lady Harrington, and Lady Forte, her daughter Olga Polizzi and her daughter-in-law, Allai Forte, customers can choose for winter from colourful capes in chevron pleated silk to wear over a little black dress. A repertoire of cleverly cut black evening dresses, short or long, with beaded or lace panels or cunningly draped, ran through this collection of polished, wearable high style.

Women wanted "glamour that feels understated", Franka said, adding: "Women do not always know what to do with a shawl, and a cape is a glamorous alternative to a fur."

Indeed, faux fur — the term prevails in fashion parlance for the ecologically OK fakes acceptable in high society — was employed lavishly by Franka, edging jackets and used to cuff short hemlines on twinkly evening suits in black and gold brocade or bronze houndstooth checks.

The revealing ball dress with bare décolleté has been replaced by columns of draped silk jersey or a hand-beaded lace tunic worn over a long satin or velvet back-slit skirt.

Black and white is Anouska Hempel's theme, played to full dramatic effect with tunics and neat jackets sculpted in wool ottoman, velvet and textured silk clogé worn with short skirts and deep rose sequinned strapless tops. Typically extravagant Hempel touches included curt's hats with wide flyaway brims.

Sir Hardy Amies, 82 today, celebrates with a showing of his latest couture collection.

RAF police face court martial

TWO RAF policemen drove a service hire car through an area of Belfast's largely Protestant Shankill district that is permanently out of bounds to off-duty service personnel, a court martial was told yesterday.

Acting Corporals Ian Michael Henry, aged 24, and Paul Robert Taylor, aged 22, are accused of conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline by taking an RAF hire car along the Shankill Road on November 5 last year shortly before they were due to leave Northern Ireland, Henry on posting to Cyprus, and Taylor to leave the RAF.

Henry is charged with alighting to take photographs, and Taylor with stopping the car to let him do so. Both are accused of compromising needlessly the registration of the car. They plead not guilty.

From prosecution witnesses the court martial at RAF Aldergrove heard of the restrictions which apply to the movements of off-duty service personnel in Ulster, and of colour-coded maps showing out of bounds areas that they consult before they book out of camp.

Corporal A.J. Picking, of the RAF Police, said that there were four categories of area — red, which was out of bounds to all off-duty personnel at all times, and which applied to the Shankill Road. Amber areas were out of bounds between 6pm and 8pm, and "black alpha" areas from midnight to 8am. All places of entertainment were out of bounds except restaurants in black alpha areas, he said.

Corporal Picking, who manned the security advice centre beside RAF Aldergrove main gate, said that there were permissible transit routes marked through red areas and only two permitted routes to and from Belfast city centre. Cross-examined by Gilbert

Blades, for the defence, Corporal Picking said that maps were not issued to individuals, but could be consulted on the walls of the security advice centre.

Mr Blades asked: "You couldn't have an airman opening up in the middle of Belfast a map about four ft long to see whether he is in a red area or not?" "No, but they can't just wander around Belfast willy-nilly. If there is no transit route, you're not allowed in a red area," Corporal Picking said.

Other witnesses said that following the alleged incident last November, the hire car, a blue Escort, had to be re-registered on the advice of the Royal Ulster Constabulary after its registration was compromised. The court martial continues today.

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السيارة الجديدة

Power station generates wave of hope on new energy source

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S first wave-energy power station was yesterday inaugurated on the island of Islay by Colin Moynihan, the energy minister, amid a growing mood of optimism among supporters and researchers in the field.

The project, developed by engineers at Queen's university, Belfast, uses a Wells air-driven turbine to turn the energy from waves entering a narrow rock gully into electricity. Mr Moynihan praised the wave power system as the most technically advanced in the world and announced further funding of £205,000 to refine the six-year-old scheme.

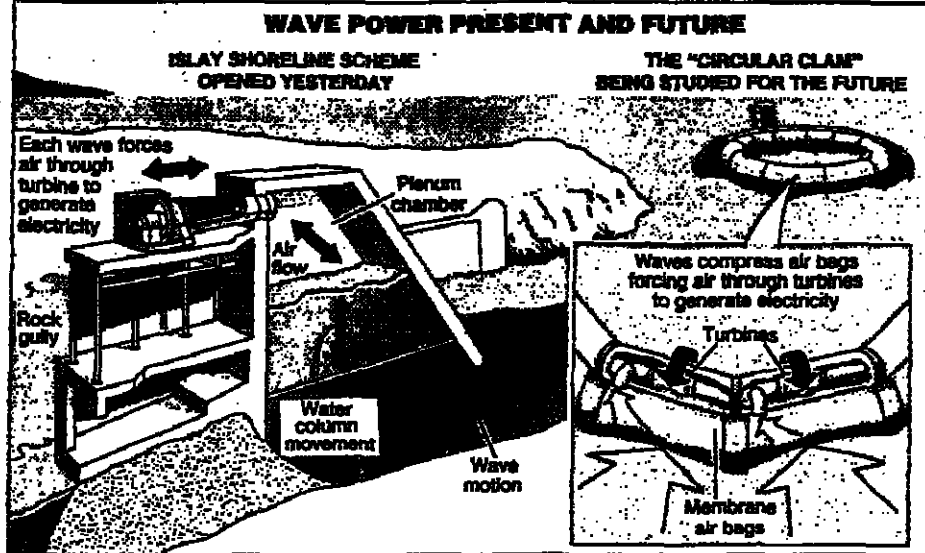
The celebrations came at an auspicious time for Britain's national wave-energy programme after nearly a decade in the wilderness. Sites along Britain's western coast where more and bigger Islay-style projects could be built in natural or man-made gullies are being studied by Trevor

Whittaker, leader of the Queen's team, and Denis Millson, professor of probability at Herriot Watt university, Edinburgh.

A team of independent consultants, appointed by the Department of Energy to re-evaluate the prospects for wave energy in the light of technological developments and environmental concerns, is also to report to ministers in the autumn. Officials said yesterday that the conclusions were expected to confirm that the costs of wave-energy were exaggerated in 1983 when the national programme was wound down.

Supporters are quietly confident that the government will restore the national programme to exploit a resource that could eventually supply significant amounts, if not all, of the nation's electricity needs.

Several key devices from more than 300 that have been



proposed have been under reconsideration. Some are designed to exploit shoreline wave power. Others are designed for use offshore where the Atlantic offers the best wave resource in the world.

Among the most promising are the oscillating water column breakwater, the circular clam, Salter's Duck and solo duck.

The breakwater has been developed by a team at the

National Engineering Laboratories, East Kilbride, led by George Elliot. It consists of a series of concrete modules with air trapped inside. Waves crashing on to the breakwater force air through turbines to

generate electricity. As the waves recede air is sucked back into the air chamber again generating electricity.

The breakwater can be built as an energy-generating harbour wall or as a shoreline wave power station. About 10,000 metres of breakwater equate to 250MW, or the size of a small nuclear power station. A site has been identified at South Uist, Hebrides, where a 6MW demonstration breakwater could be built.

The circular clam, an offshore system, is the brainchild of researchers at Coventry polytechnic led by Norman Bellamy. The device consists of 12 bags which, when squeezed by waves, force air into a ring of 12 150kW turbines.

Professor Bellamy said that the eventual aim was a string of sea clams, spaced 100 metres apart, which in sufficient numbers could generate between 2 and 6GW. Britain's electricity demand is

about 40GW. The Coventry team is confident that the government will give the go-ahead for sea trials on the northeast coast in the New Year.

The other two devices are more elaborate and more long term. Solo and Salter's Duck, developed by a team at Edinburgh university led by Stephen Salter, are designed to be sited offshore where they nod up and down with the waves.

The solo duck, a single device, would have the capacity to generate up to 3MW of electricity or the equivalent of a large wind turbine. Each duck would be spaced 50 metres apart.

Professor Salter said that in the long term the Salter Duck system was the way forward. Those systems consist of a battery of devices which, although individually less efficient than the solo version, can be packed tightly together to make better use of the sea space.

Man denies murder of Oxford student

A man accused of murdering Rachel McLean, the Oxford university student whose body was found under the floorboards of her lodgings, denied the charge when he appeared at Leicester crown court yesterday.

John Tanner, aged 22, is alleged to have killed Miss McLean, aged 19, on April 14. Stephen Coward, QC, for Mr Tanner, made a successful application for the case not to be heard at Oxford crown court. The trial will probably be heard at Birmingham crown court in October.

Jobs gloom

GEC Avionics at Rochester, Kent, is to cut 95 jobs because of the effects of the end of the Cold War, and the yacht builder Camper and Nicholson, of Gosport, Hampshire, is putting its 120 staff on a three-day week because of a shortage of orders.

Cash clue

Police hunting the killer of Penelope Bell, the businesswoman found stabbed to death at a west London leisure centre in June, said she had withdrawn £8,500 from her bank and may have been a victim of robbery or blackmail.

Woman stabbed

Joanne Marie Flint, aged 22, of Watford, was seriously ill in hospital after being stabbed 28 times by a man while working alone on the seventh floor of the Point West office block in Hayes, west London.

Appeal fails

The Court of Appeal upheld a £75,000 libel damages award to Gaynor Winyard, a beauty therapist, against the publisher of *Tatler* magazine. Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused.

Killing charge

Brian Craggs, a seaman aged 27, of Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, denied murdering Maurice Foy on the RFA Sir Galahad during the Gulf war. He was bailed by Leicester crown court to await trial.

Bus prank

Joy-riders drove a double-decker bus into the sea after taking it from a rally at the Royal Victorian country park, Netley, Hampshire. Police dragged the bus out.

Patients who fail to keep appointments face penalty

By JILL SHEARMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

PATIENTS who fail to respond when given hospital admission dates may lose their places on NHS waiting lists, according to new guidance issued yesterday by the health department.

The guidelines, which outline steps to improve the management of waiting lists, claim that theatre time is often wasted because patients fail to turn up for appointments or put them off.

A recent study had shown that 30 per cent of scheduled operating theatre time was unused, said the report from the NHS management executive, which coincided with separate guidance on waiting lists from the Royal College of Surgeons.

Sir Terence English, the college's president, said that many people suffered unnecessary hardship and even death because of long delays in treatment. Although better management was essential, more resources were needed.

The health department guidance says that patients should be kept fully informed about when they are likely to be admitted and that patients should do their best to co-operate. "Patients who defer their admissions with no intention of coming in during the immediate future should be temporarily removed from the list," the document says.

Patients should be given at least 14 days' notice of an operation and be asked to respond to an admission letter, saying whether they can

keep the appointment, the guidance says. If patients fail to respond, their admission dates should be given to others waiting for treatment. Hospitals should identify a group of patients who could come in at short notice to fill gaps in operating sessions.

The guidelines, based on examples of good management practice throughout the country, follow concern that a significant number of names on waiting lists are "ghost" patients, who have already had their operations, died, got better or moved away.

John Yates, who resigned this year as the government's trouble shooter on NHS waiting lists after policy disagreements, found that a third of the patients removed from 43 lists that he worked on in the period 1989-90 were "ghost" ones. The health department admitted yesterday that in the 12 months to September 1990, 271,900 people were removed from waiting lists other than for treatment. "When these non-existent patients are called into hospital, resources can be wasted instead of being used for real patients," Duncan Nichol, NHS chief executive, said.

The report also hints that some types of conditions should never go on waiting lists. Consultants should not put patients on waiting lists if the hospital does not "have service agreements or the capacity to treat certain conditions," it says. Consultants should put on lists only those patients they seriously intend to treat. Patients who do not yet require operations should not be put on lists merely to guard against a future requirement. The consultant should also check that patients want surgery before adding their names to lists.

Sir Terence, head of the heart transplant team at Papworth Hospital near Cambridge, said: "The overall provision of resources and manpower is currently insufficient to enable surgeons in England and Wales to provide patients with all the benefits of modern surgery."

The college guidelines state that consultants should review their waiting lists at least every six months and ensure that patients who have waited longer than six months are reassured of the intention to operate as soon as possible.

© Jenny Reilly, aged 67, who has been waiting 17 years for an operation to remove a lump on her wrist, has been given a date. However, Mrs Reilly, of Gloucester, says she no longer wants the operation. "I'm getting older and won't be around much longer."

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Architects fear return to 1960s standards

By MARCUS BINNEY, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE new president of the Royal Institute of British Architects has severely criticised the government over proposals that he fears will return public-sector architecture to the lowest levels of the 1960s.

Many architects are outraged that their services may follow refuse collection, street cleaning and school catering in being put out to compulsory competitive tendering by local authorities. Richard MacCormac said: "Central government is once again determined to make cheapness rather than quality the criterion for design."

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, who recently received an honorary fellowship from RIBA, was "failing to recognise that local people care sufficiently about their environment to want to find the right people to design new buildings of quality and honour and respect historic places", Mr MacCormac added.

An environment department spokesman emphasised that proposals to extend compulsory tendering to professional services supplied to local authorities were intended to provide value for money, not just cheapness.

Mr MacCormac said that no council "would blindly seek the cheapest financial advice through competitive tendering". He is concerned that some authorities might be in danger of losing first-class architects' departments.



The Bourne in Hampshire near Hurstbourne Viaduct, where water is to be pumped out and fed one and a half miles upstream to revive a dry stretch

Water recycling may save trout stream

By ROBIN YOUNG

A CELEBRATED Hampshire trout stream will shortly run with recycled water. To overcome persistent flow failures in the Bourne, a tributary of the Test, the National Rivers Authority is proposing to collect water near Hurstbourne Viaduct and pump it one and a half miles back upstream to St Mary Bourne, whose residents have become used to a dry and unsightly river-bed beside their village street.

In 1797, when Jane Austen's brother was married at Hurstbourne Tarrant church, overlooking the stream's up-

per reaches, the coach had to go through a foot of water because the river flooded the road. As late as 1928, Sir Charles Boys, FRS, a scientist living locally, was arguing that St Mary Bourne's bridge with three narrow arches should be replaced by one without piers in the waterway to avoid the dangers of repeated floods.

Now a spate of dry years has convinced the authority that something must be done if the river is to keep running. The plan is to gather water below the village cross-roads, which have been licensed to abstract

large quantities of water since 1965, and to pump it back to St Mary Bourne through two 6in firehoses, releasing it in an area revealingly known as Swampton to run back down the dried-up river course.

If the plan does not work, the NRA says, it may be necessary to contemplate lining the river-bed with clay, which would turn the Bourne from a chalk stream to an artificial river more resembling a fast-flowing canal. It will also be necessary to monitor environmental effects of the scheme. It is feared that chemical treat-

ments at the cross-roads may make the recycled water poisonous to freshwater shrimp.

The Bourne, whose valley was admired by William Cobbett and whose junction with the Test was celebrated by the singer Harry Plunket Greene in a book, *Where the Bright Waters Meet*, is one of four Hampshire streams threatened by drought. The authority says, though, that there should be no need to carry recycled water further back up stream because above St Mary Bourne the river has always been a "winterbourne".

Polys to be allowed new status by 1993

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

POLYTECHNICS are to be allowed to become universities a year earlier than planned, under legislation ordered for this autumn.

A single bill on further and higher education will be included in the Queen's Speech in November if there is no autumn election. Polytechnics would be allowed to become universities by April 1993.

When the series of white papers on post-16 education appeared in May, the government's intention was to give priority to further education. Polytechnics were told that they would have to wait until 1994 for a change of status. Since then, however, polytechnic directors and Conser-

vative backbenchers have persuaded Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, to speed up the process.

The education department confirmed that there was pressure for a single bill and said that ministers were waiting to hear what parliamentary time was available. A lengthy and complex single bill would be difficult to get through Parliament before an election in the spring of 1992. Labour will contest the removal of the 530 further education colleges from local authorities. Both parties are committed to funding all higher education institutions on the same basis and allowing polytechnics to become universities.

Golf club's old ball sells for £11,000

By JOHN SHAW

AN OLD golf ball that used to lie around a clubhouse bar made £11,000 at auction yesterday, helping to finance improvements to the club, at Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

The early Victorian leather ball sold on mid-estimate at Phillips in Chester to Spink, the London dealer, buying for a private client. The ball, made by John Sharp, of Perth, had for years stood on a bar shelf among the cigarettes at Leamington and County Golf Club. "It was just dismissed as an old ball that had been kicking around for ages," Sally Cooknell, the secretary, said. "All we know is that it was presented to us before anyone

can remember. No one had any idea it might be worth anything until a man came in and offered me £2,000 for it." The club then checked with Bob Gowland, of Phillips, an expert on golfing memorabilia, who pronounced it extremely rare, in mint condition, and "a serious collector's dream".

Spink bought a dozen antique clubs, the most expensive of which was a McEwan dark brown thorn-headed early 19th-century putter, for £6,050. It also bought a rare Open Championship Hand-book for 1921 for £4,400 (estimate £2,000-£3,000). The 795-lot sale made £317,300.

European satellite due to begin Earth-watch

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

EUROPE's first Earth-scanning satellite should be in orbit this morning, if the launch by the European Space Agency from the French space centre in French Guiana has gone according to plan. The launch is set for 2.46am BST.

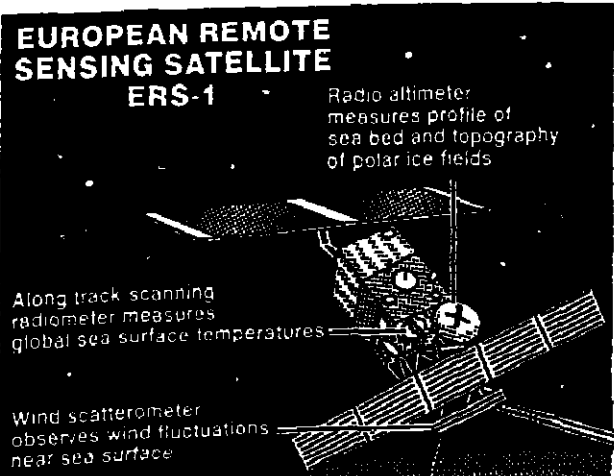
Much hangs on the success of ERS-1, the European Remote Sensing satellite, the first of a generation of satellites designed to increase knowledge of the environment, oceans and climate. ERS-1, which is 39ft high and weighs 2.5 tonnes, has cost £500

million and should provide more data about the Earth than any previous satellite.

Orbiting at a height of 490 miles, it will monitor pollution, the temperature of the sea surface, the destruction of rain forests and the size of polar ice-caps. Its advanced radar and infra-red instruments will allow it to peer through clouds and measure the height of waves, the circulation of currents and the speed of winds over oceans, data that is vital to making models of the world climate

but which cannot easily be obtained in any other way.

The launch of ERS-1 has been delayed by problems with the Ariane-4 launcher. As soon as ERS-1 emerges from the nose of the rocket and unfolds its antennae, it will begin storing and collating information. The data will begin pouring back to Earth in about three months. In Britain, it will go to the National Remote Sensing Centre, at Farnborough, Hampshire, to be handled as commercial property and sold to users.



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OBSERVER SUNDAY 7 JULY 1991

BUSINESS

Car wars: Discounts

UK NEWS

Fiat cuts prices as car war intensifies

By Kevin Done, Motor Industry Correspondent

Fiat, the Italian car maker, yesterday began a growing price war in the UK market with cuts ranging from 400 on selected models across

and up to The big made on the Fiat C. The com: market has in the first of per ce is one eat ma

remain. While Ford, Nissan and Fiat have chosen to cut their prices, Vauxhall

UK new car sales are expected to rise by an average of 10 per cent in 1991. It also has the the fastest growing population, according to research

Nissan cuts prices to reverse slump

By MICHAEL KEMP, Motor Industry Correspondent

FAMILY-SIZE CHALLENGE FROM KOREA

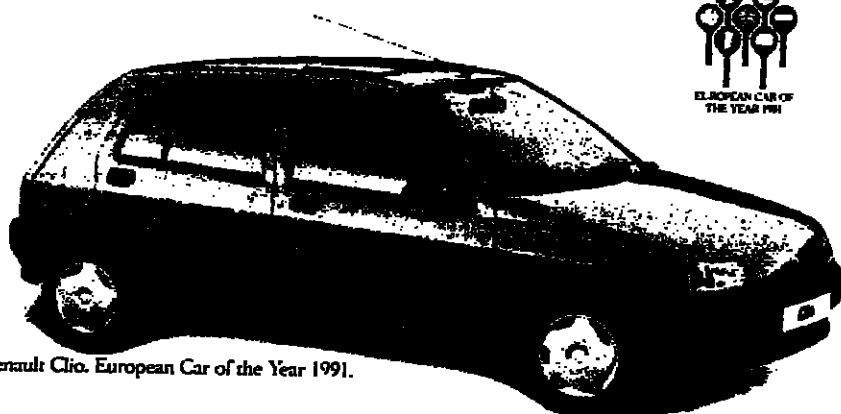
Car wars! Vauxhall cuts prices off Astra

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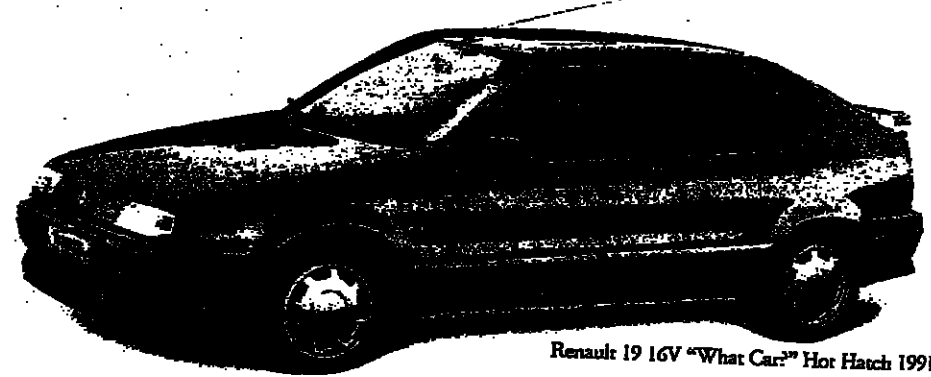
For example, the Clio RL is £1,014 less than the equivalent Ford Fiesta. Whilst the new Clio RN 1.9 Diesel is £852 less than its Fiesta counterpart.

Or compare the stylish Renault 19 GTS-X 1.4 with the Escort LX: £760 less.

Then at £12,725, there is the Renault 19 16-Valve, which has been judged “Best Hot Hatch” by What Car?, and “the best fast hatch” by Performance Car. Not bad going for a car that's £2,078 less than the Golf GTI 16V.

Even the luxurious Renault 21 GTS 1.7, compared with the Vauxhall Cavalier L is £375 less.

Of course Renault Dealers are also offering you great deals. Right now Renault Diamond Deals give such things as free “on-the-road” costs, free optional extras, and interest free finance offers on certain cars, as your local Renault dealer will be pleased to tell you. And there are great part exchange prices available across the range.



Renault 19 16V “What Car?” Hot Hatch 1991.

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RENAULT

All price comparisons quoted exclude delivery and number plates, but include 17.5% VAT and Car Tax. All comparisons are based on manufacturers' data. Renault cash prices, inc. vat. “on-the-road” costs are shown in brackets. Vehicles compared – Renault Clio RL 1.2 5 door (shown) £7,540 (£8,090), Renault Clio RN 1.9 Diesel 5 door £8,275 (£8,325), Renault 19 GTS-X 1.4 5 door £9,366 (£9,815), Renault 19 16-Valve (shown) £12,725 (£13,175), Renault 21 GTS 1.7 5 door £11,965 (£12,115), Ford Fiesta Popular Plus CFI 1.1 5 door £8,054, Ford Fiesta LX 1.8 Diesel 5 door £9,727, Ford Escort LX 1.4 5 door £10,125, VW Golf GTI 16V 1.8 5 door £14,903, Vauxhall Cavalier L 1.8 5 door £11,740. Diamond Deals are available on selected Renault cars ordered and registered before 31 August 1991, while stocks last. Free “on-the-road” costs include time delivery, free number plates and 6 months road fund licence (but exclude optional extras and insurance). Finance offers subject to credit status. Written quotations available on request. Credit facilities provided by Renault Financial Services, 1945 House, City Road, Chester CH99 3AN. All prices and comparison data correct at time of going to press. Renault UK recommend 40W/90 motor oil.

مركز السيارات

Ministers over-rule officials on more power for consumers

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS have over-ruled their civil servants and insisted on tough new powers for the bodies regulating the newly privatised utilities in the citizens' charter planned for publication next week.

They believe that their move will confound their Labour critics, who claimed, after the leak of a confidential Whitehall paper on the charter earlier this month, that it would be a "sham and a fraud".

John Redwood, the trade minister, who is helping to coordinate the charter exercise across the various government departments, is under-

stood to have rejected the late drafts presented to him by officials of the trade and industry department.

He is believed to have insisted that the final document should strengthen the hand of watchdog bodies such as the water regulator (Ofwat) and the telecommunications regulator (OfTel) to intervene in disputes between customers and suppliers and to order them to pay compensation in cases where there has been a clear lapse in service standards.

Some of the regulators are understood to have pressed ministers to be given a general power to enforce compensation where they believe it is justified.

In the leaked paper, officials argued against creating statutory ombudsmen with powers to resolve disputes or strengthening the powers of the regulators. Both would require legislation and the civil servants warned ministers that such a step could open up a wide-ranging debate on the role and performance of the regulators and the politically sensitive business of capping price rises. Instead, they advocated the weaker option under which ministers would encourage watchdog bodies to put more pressure on companies and urge the public to demand better services.

After the public outcry over big pay increases for the heads of the privatised utilities, such matters have become an even greater source of potential political embarrassment for the government. However, the prime minister and his colleagues appear ready to risk such a debate in order to deliver his pledge of a charter with teeth.

British Telecom and the water companies already operate compensation schemes for aggrieved customers. They pay £5 a day if companies fail to repair a telephone or restore a water supply within a guaranteed period of time. British

Telecom's private customers can also claim losses of up to £1,000 if a telephone is out of order for a long time. Business users can make claims of up to £5,000. Disgruntled water customers can also make claims for ex gratia compensation if they have suffered damage through, for example, a dirty water supply.

The regulators' powers to enforce payments in such cases are limited and do not, for instance, include the general power to require that an ex gratia payment should be made.

According to figures collected by OfTel, in the six months to September last year, British Telecom received 9,843 claims for late installation of new telephone lines and paid cash in 68 per cent of cases. The total sum was £872,964. It also received 28,885 claims where it had allegedly failed to repair a broken telephone within the guaranteed two working days of the fault being reported. Compensation totalled £289,539.



Redwood insists that watchdogs are strengthened

Preference for press angers the Speaker

By ROBERT MORGAN AND PETER MULLIGAN

THE Speaker, Bernard Weatherill, made clear yesterday his anger at ministers making announcements about the Rosyth shipyard to a press conference rather than to the Commons. He indicated that if a statement is not forthcoming today, he will allow an emergency question from the Opposition.

Responding to demands that ministers should be forced to come to the chamber, Mr Weatherill said: "Time was when ministers made statements to this House before they made them to those outside. I hope we can get back to that situation. This chamber is the forum of the nation and this is where statements ought to be made: not to those outside."

During noisy exchanges the Liberal Democrats forced a division on the rarely used device of spying strangers, a move to get the House to sit in camera. The motion, moved by James Wallace, was overwhelmingly rejected.

Cranley, Onslow, chairman of the Conservative

1922 committee, further angered Opposition MPs when he suggested that the move was a stunt.

Martin O'Neill, Labour's defence spokesman, complained that a press conference was being held by Tom King, the defence secretary, and Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, to am-

should be required to come to the House to explain their actions.

The Speaker said that the House knew that he deprecated the giving of press conferences to amplify questions. If he had known about it earlier, he might have taken a different view. Pressed to call on ministers to come to the House, the Speaker said that he had no authority to do that, but "I will look sympathetically at this tomorrow".

Tom Clarke, Labour MP for Monklands West, said that in the Scottish Grand Committee earlier in the day the Scottish secretary had been pressed about Rosyth and had refused even to indicate that a press conference was taking place. That was contempt not only of the committee but also of the House.

In response to further angry demands from Opposition MPs for a ministerial statement, the Speaker said: "If press conferences are to be given to the press they should be given to this House. I feel strongly about that and I have made my views plain."



O'Neill: House must have precedence

plify a Commons written answer about the future of Rosyth and other dockyards. He said that if the matter was sufficiently important to require the presence of the two ministers at a press conference, they



Dockers' payments rise

The dock workers' compensation scheme is likely to cost the government nearly six times the original estimate, Patrick McLoughlin, a junior transport minister, disclosed in a written reply. The Dock Work Act, which ended the dock labour scheme, put the cost of redundancy and other payments to be borne by the government at £25 million, he said. To date the cost has been £128 million and could rise to £141 million.

More being spent on NHS

Capital expenditure on the national health service this year will be £1.9 billion, Stephen Dorrell, health under secretary, announced at question time. That compares with £400 million in 1978-9, an increase in real terms of 68 per cent. He added that between 1974 and 1979 the Labour government cut the capital programme by 16 per cent in real terms.

New peer



Pauline Perry (above), director of the South Bank Polytechnic, London, was introduced in the House of Lords as Lady Perry of Southwark. She will sit on the Conservative benches.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Scottish Office. Debate on Plaid Cymru motion on government structure in Wales. Lords (2.30): Local government (finance and valuation) bill, report.

Insurers get Aids warning

Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, told insurance companies yesterday not to discriminate against people found HIV-negative in a test for Aids.

She said during Commons questions that the result of a negative test for insurance purposes should be the same as for someone who had not been tested at all.

The health department said later that the results of a survey into claims that insurers have penalised people who have been negatively tested would be published in about a week. Moral pressure, rather than legislation, was likely to be the government's approach if discrimination was found.

Mrs Bottomley said that recent anonymous tests of pregnant women had found that about one in 200 in inner-city areas was at risk of HIV, the virus that might lead to Aids. That compared with about one in 16,000 in rural areas and had led to the formation of an Aids action group to focus on places where the incidence was high.

Unfair bills will not be paid, MP says

MICHAEL Heseltine is coming under Conservative backbench pressure to change the law to stop councils passing on up to £68 a head to charge-payers to cover shortfalls caused by those who fail to meet their bills (Nicholas Wood writes).

Sir Rhodes Boyson, a former local government minister, has warned the environment secretary of a growing sense of injustice among the public over the non-payment levy. He has written to him saying that, unless action is taken, more people will refuse to pay their full poll tax.

In his letter, the Brent North MP urged Mr Heseltine to outlaw surcharges and to penalise councils that fail to recoup the money owed to them. Either councils should be required by law to collect the full amount from every charge-payer or their budgets should be reduced by the amount outstanding.

This month, *The Times* disclosed that the non-payment surcharge is appearing under the heading "other adjustments" on newly designed poll tax bills introduced this

year. Recipients are obliged to pay it, but council treasurers have reported a growing tendency for people to knock off the supplement and pay the remaining sum.

Eleven local authorities have increased their bills by at least £40 a head to cover non-payment shortfalls. The Labour-controlled London borough of Southwark has imposed the biggest surcharge, of £68 a head.

Sir Rhodes said yesterday that people were becoming increasingly indignant at being expected to "pick up the tab" for neighbours who refused to pay their bills. They believed that such supplements were immoral and he predicted that if the government did not intervene, the collection system would be put in jeopardy.

The present arrangements were as unjust as requiring television licence holders to pay the bills of those who chose to defy the law. "The solution is simple. If a council is £1 million short, it is £1 million short. All its officials will be going from door to door to collect the money and to make sure that they do not lose their jobs."

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It brings the old adage to mind 'if you can't beat them, join them.'



ON THE MOVE

IMF to keep Moscow at bay on full membership

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

DESPITE ringing declarations of support for the Soviet reform process, the one tangible form of help that President Gorbachev is likely to be offered when he joins the G7 summit today is "associate status" in the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. He will doubtless be delighted, but when he returns home and starts to examine his gift, he may begin to wonder if it was worth the price of his visit to London.

As David Mulford, the US Treasury under-secretary, admitted yesterday, associate status, a category which does not even exist at present, would be designed so that the IMF could negotiate programmes of economic adjustment and budget cuts with the Soviet government, just as it does with other member states in economic trouble. But there would be a crucial difference: the Soviet Union would not be able to borrow a penny from the Washington-based fund to cushion the pain of these adjustments as do the governments of Latin America, Af-

rica and Eastern Europe. To borrow from the IMF, Moscow would have to become a full member. That is simply "not practicable" for at least two years, according to Mr Mulford, and possibly not for five years according to some British officials.

This is a pity, not only for the Soviet Union, but also for Western taxpayers. For the Soviet Union's exclusion from the IMF (along with the World Bank, its sister institution) will not diminish the ultimate costs to the West of supporting the Soviet economy; it will simply force the rich countries' governments to bear these costs directly. Why, then, are the G7 nations determined to deny the Soviet Union full IMF membership, which could help to finance the country's reforms more cheaply, efficiently and invisibly from the budgetary point of view?

Officially, all kinds of excuses are given, but the IMF's recent history suggests that none are valid. Communist countries like China and Poland have been in the IMF for more than a decade. Czechoslovakia was admitted last year within eight months of its application being lodged. In January, China was admitted virtually overnight, despite an almost complete absence of information about its economy, when Washington decided to stop recognising Taiwan.

So what is the true reason for opposing Soviet membership? Mr Mulford hinted at it yesterday when he pointed out that it had taken nearly two years to complete the recent review of quotas which raised Japan's voting rights in the organisation from 4.52 per cent to 5.59 per cent, while lowering Britain's from 6.62 per cent to 5.35 per cent. As a result of this change in quotas, Britain fell from second to equal fourth, with France, in the IMF's pecking order.

America's voting rights of 19.1 per cent were unaffected, but there were fears in Washington that the next renegotiation of quotas might see Japan rise further while the United States fell towards the 15 per cent level, which is required to exercise a veto over most of the IMF's key decisions.

One fear that British officials have privately expressed ever since the negotiations over Japan's new quota was that the Soviet Union, because of its immense size, would one day be admitted with a quota that threatened Britain's number five position in the IMF league. With a position in the top five goes much influence in the institution.

The Yavlinsky proposal, the Soviet-American plan to transform the Soviet economy, for example, mentioned a possible IMF quota worth "at least" \$5.5 billion (£3.35 billion) for the Soviet Union. This would compare with the \$9.8 billion at present accorded to Britain and France. The gap may still be a large one, but the quotas are determined by a complicated formula based on the size of each member's economy, its reserves and its international trade. If Moscow actually succeeded in reforming the Soviet economy, then Britain's place at the IMF top table would almost certainly be lost by the end of the decade.

Diary, page 16
Letters, page 17
Leading article, page 17

Gorbachev delicately snubbed

By MARY DEJEVSKY

JOHN Major sent President Gorbachev a clear signal yesterday that even potential membership of the world's economic top table, the Group of Seven, is not on offer during his visit to London. In a letter acknowledging Mr Gorbachev's 23-page submission to the G7 summit, the prime minister apologised because "my economic summit duties prevent me from welcoming you and Mrs Gorbachev this evening". This was the second delicately phrased snub to Moscow within a day.

Although Mr Gorbachev has been trying for weeks to ensure that the Soviet Union's problems were at the centre of the summit's attention, the substance of the summit political declaration yesterday seemed designed to put the Soviet Union firmly in its place, offering no more than encouragement.

Just one of the 16 paragraphs in the declaration says that G7 support "for the process of fundamental reform in the Soviet Union remains as strong as ever". The previous paragraph, dealing with Eastern Europe, is considerably warmer, speaking of the commitment of the G7 leaders to "full support" of market reforms there.

While complimenting the Soviet Union on the changes brought about by its "new political thinking" the declaration is distinctly lukewarm on domestic changes, speaking of "efforts to create a new union", and "efforts to create an open society, pluralistic democracy and a market economy".

The Soviet Union might also find cause for concern in the summit's declaration on arms control, which approves a recent trend by international institutions to take military spending into account when allocating funds for development. "While all countries are struggling with competing claims on scarce resources, excessive spending on arms of all kinds diverts resources from the overriding need to tackle economic development," it says.



American perspectives: President Bush and James Baker, the US Secretary of State, taking a breather during the G7 summit in Lancaster House, London yesterday, while John Major, the prime minister, and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, confer in the background

EC expects end to global trade deadlock

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE deadlocked world trade talks will be successfully concluded this year, irrespective of the pace at which the EC's common agricultural policy is reformed, Frans Andriessen, the European trade commissioner, said yesterday.

He dismissed any suggestion that disagreement over the common agricultural policy reform proposal drawn up by Ray MacSharry, the European farm commissioner, represented an obstacle to progress on the Uruguay Round talks on liberalized world trade.

He said the summit declaration today would adopt the wording from last month's meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, which de-

clared the free trade agreement the "highest economic priority" on the international agenda. It would identify precise areas in which progress had to be made: agricultural surpluses, market access and intellectual property.

Last year's economic summit in Houston set an end-1990 deadline for concluding the ambitious trade round, which seeks to establish free trade in new areas, such as farm products and services, in addition to extending liberalised trade in manufactures. But bitter transatlantic differences over farm subsidies stalled the round in December, although technical negotiations continue.

Speaking on the second day of the summit, which is at-

tended by the commission, Mr Andriessen said he was "convinced" the free trade talks would be brought to a successful conclusion by the end of 1991. The common view was that it was an "absolute necessity" to complete the round by then, and that all would have to do their utmost to establish the right negotiating environment.

Although Carla Hills, the American trade representative, has demanded that the community identify clear ways of taking the deadlocked trade talks forward in time for her meeting with Mr Andriessen at the end of this month, a slower timetable appears likely.

Norman Lamont, the chancellor, hinted on Monday that the G7 nations would only start to be worried about the trade talks if there were no signs of the deadlock being broken by September.

At the Geneva headquarters of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, under whose auspices the Uruguay Round has been held, the September deadline for taking serious political decisions is considered realistic. The Gatt trade negotiators hold technical meetings next week, before breaking for a month.

Mr Andriessen emphasised that President Gorbachev's presence in London had not distracted the leaders from the trade talks, whose importance to world economic growth is widely acknowledged. Dieter Vogel, the German govern-

ment spokesman, said the summit had to give the "clear political signal" on the Uruguay Round. Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, made clear to his G7 counterparts yesterday that Germany regards freer trade as a good means of helping eastern and central Europe. Already providing 40 per cent of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development funds going to the region, Germany is unwilling to pay for more.

Brussels has underlined that unravelling the farm subsidy issue would not alone guarantee success to the world trade talks, as the Americans have still to budge on services, such as shipping and telecommunications.

As the sky darkened so the green contingent dwindled. No, Jonathon would not be aboard the charabanc. Petra was otherwise engaged, too. Susan, well nobody knew where she was, and Maneka had another appointment.

As drizzle turned to deluge, the photographers and camera crews on the top deck began to look restless. "Where are these picture opportunities then? Anyway the light is going, said one truculent snapper."

Flora Smith, a Toes spokeswoman, said: "Oh dear, look at this weather. I suppose it is bad planning; we are not getting the alternative summit delegates we had hoped for. I suppose it is the rain."

And the photo-opportunity had begun so well. Photographers leaving the Queen Elizabeth conference centre, which is media headquarters for the G7, were confronted by a green, string quartet playing *The Rival Fiddlers* while a banner reading "Leaders fiddle while the world burns" was unfurled from a balcony at the hall. Then came the wind, and the rain in buckets.

Many reporters, photographers and television camera crews fled from the fast-flooding top deck of the stationary bus, some seeking shelter in a nearby public house.

As the bus driver started the engine, sending clouds of environment-unfriendly diesel fumes into the atmosphere, even the most dedicated optimists aboard realised not even second-division greens were going to show for the Docklands tour. A Toes press officer braved the elements in what proved to be a vain attempt to attach banners and posters to the bus, castigating G7 leaders for crimes against the environment.

Below stairs, the remaining representatives of the media were wondering why they had not stayed at the conference centre. A bearded organiser was fiddling with a public address system. "It is not working, there must be something wrong, perhaps it is waterlogged," he said. Toes staff, as miserable as their passengers by this stage, had begun passing round a bottle of red wine. "It is climatic change brought about by environmental vandalism. We have got the G7 leaders to thank for this bloody rain," said one drenched wag. Nobody laughed.

Leaders plan for peace

The following are edited highlights of the political and conventional arms declarations agreed on at the London summit.

United Nations: We must reinforce the multilateral approach to the solution of common problems and work to strengthen the international system of which the United Nations, based on its Charter, remains so central a part.

It is a matter for hope and encouragement that the United Nations Security Council, with the backing of the international community, showed during the Gulf crisis that it could fulfil its role of acting to restore international peace and security and to resolve conflict.

We believe the conditions now exist for the United Nations to fulfil completely the promise and the vision of its founders. A revitalised United Nations will have a central role in strengthening the international order.

Initiatives could include: the designation of a high level official, answerable only to the secretary-general, who would be responsible for directing a prompt and well-integrated international response to emergencies, and for co-ordinating the relevant UN appeals; and improvement in the arrangements whereby resources... can be mobilised to meet urgent humanitarian needs in time of crisis.

Middle East: We attach overriding importance to the launching of a process designed to bring comprehensive, just and lasting peace between Israel and her Arab neighbours, including the Palestinians. We support the concept of a peace conference.

Soviet Union: Our support for the process of fundamental reform in the Soviet Union remains as strong as ever. We believe that new thinking in Soviet foreign policy, which has done so much to reduce East/West tension and strengthen the multilateral peace and security system, should be applied on a global basis.

Yugoslavia: It is for the peoples of Yugoslavia to decide upon their future. However the situation continues to cause great concern. We call for a halt to violence, the de-activation and

return of military forces to barracks and a permanent ceasefire.

AT OUR meeting in Houston last year, we, the Heads of State and Government and the representatives of the European Community, underlined the threats to international security posed by the proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and of associated missile delivery systems. The Gulf crisis has highlighted the dangers posed by the unchecked spread of these weapons...

Conventional arms transfers: We accept that many states depend on arms imports to assure a reasonable level of security and the inherent right of self-defence is recognised in the United Nations Charter. Tensions will persist in international relations so long as underlying conflicts of interest are not tackled and resolved. But the Gulf conflict showed the way in which peace and stability can be undermined when a country is able to acquire a massive arsenal that goes far beyond the needs of self defence and threatens its neighbours.

The principle of transparency should be extended to international transfers of conventional weapons and associated military technology. As a step in this direction we support the proposal for a universal register of arms transfers under the auspices of the United Nations.

The principle of consultation should now be strengthened through the rapid implementation of recent initiatives for discussions among leading arms exporters.

The principle of action requires all of us to take steps to prevent the building up of disproportionate arsenals. To that end all countries should refrain from arms transfers which would be destabilising or would exacerbate existing tensions.

Non-proliferation: We are deeply concerned about the proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and missile delivery systems. We are determined to combat this menace by strengthening and expanding the non-proliferation regimes.



Advocate for change: Maneka Gandhi, leading light of the alternative summit shadowing the G7 event

SUMMIT NOTEBOOK by Michael Binyon

Catering to media masses with wall-to-wall success

THE London summit is fast turning into an unexpected triumph of British organisation. Weeks of planning and agonised attention to the most capricious demands of the press, delegates and their entourages have clearly paid off. In the increasingly competitive league table of summits, Britain has now outdone even the White House in laying on all that is needed to bring wall-to-wall coverage of the leaders' deliberations.

The Queen Elizabeth Hall, Britain's little-known government centre tucked away behind Parliament Square, functions like a busy warren: 3,000 journalists scurry up and down its five floors, equipped with paper, pens, bleepers, phone connections, and fax facilities. Television monitors beam out the briefings, messages



and news flashes. Young men and women in smart blue jackets shepherd journalists into the auditoria, and hand out transcripts at the end of the press conference for

those who failed to catch it all. Drinks from mini-bars dotted strategically around the building are plentiful, free, and not all alcoholic. The food, a source of wonderment even to the French, has been provided by Prue Leith and is so sumptuous that many are suggesting she should be appointed official summit caterer from now on. The only grumbles, mainly from the Americans, are that pool reporters are not allowed anywhere near the statesmen deliberating in Lancaster House. But for the leaders secluded behind their security cordon, this is probably another point in London's favour.

Most American correspondents as is their custom, remain ensconced in the White House press room, this time in the Hilton Hotel. It is ever thus.

Many Americans never leave the briefing rooms for fear that Martin Fitzwater will suddenly appear with a new spin on the president's activities. To be fair, the Americans reportedly wanted to join their European colleagues in the QE Centre, but there was no room. The Americans have a hard time on these journeys. President Bush's announcement that he was sending James Baker back to the Middle East produced a weary groan from those who have already been on this gruelling circuit four times. It really is a case of "if it's noon we must be in Amman".

It is also the Russians, who want to be part of the party but are continually reminded that they are not. The Soviet press centre is way over in Kensington, in a hotel at the bottom of the road

from their embassy. Their officials were last night ensconced in a campaign strategy session with Mr Gorbachev, while other delegations and their advisers were enjoying the fireworks and military bands of Buckingham Palace.

Will G7 ever become G8, the Russians keep asking. Next year's summit will be in Munich, and if Mr Gorbachev wants to go, no German is going to keep him away. They would be happy just to go for the beer. Actually many Soviet officials insist that they have achieved half their goals simply by being here.

They may be putting on a brave face before going away empty-handed, but officials see their president's arrival as proof that the West is plotting now to work with them not against them.

Other forum stakes out moral high ground

By OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

MANEKA Gandhi does not have a great deal of time for the G7 summit leaders: they are just showing off the muscles they developed fighting in the Gulf war.

"They're just trying to rub it into the Soviet Union that it is no longer a superpower," she said in London yesterday. "President Gorbachev is just coming to ask for some money in a very non-threatening way. If it had been Andropov or Brezhnev asking for it, they would have given it to him without question..."

Mrs Gandhi, India's former minister of state for the environment and forests, is the darling of the Other Summit which is meeting in the Methodist Central Hall in London. Like the "real" one, they will issue a declaration but they suspect it will not get

as much publicity. She is doing her best to remedy that.

The Others are packed into a room at the back of the hall, out of sight of the banks of television cameras that are focused in the opposite direction, on the east of Queen Elizabeth Hall, where the world's leading politicians and their smart assistants in figure-hugging dresses are locked in debate. The Others find it all totally irrelevant.

Dress and ideology are not the only differences between them: the summiteers tend to be smooth and slightly cynical; the Others tend to be grey-haired and infinitely earnest. They greet each of Mrs Gandhi's revelations of the plight of the Third World with an almost religious fervour, and gasp at the galloping rise in India's foreign debt.

Green
turn to
yellow
in the
rain

*"The bitter taste of poor quality
remains long after the sweet taste of
low price is forgotten."*

John David Stanhope.

m-stake
gh ground



Hard times: a beggar crying for alms in a Moscow street yesterday

YURI Sergeyevich Korolyov's views on big cash injections for the Soviet economy would be music to the ears of a hawkish Western sceptic. Indeed, for different reasons, the factory boss's views would also please a rabid Russian nationalist.

"I'm not counting on help from outside. I believe we can, must rely mainly on our own efforts," said the chairman of the Low Voltage Equipment Factory, a dirty yellow-brick building in northern Moscow which has been hailed as a pioneer of economic reform. All Mr Korolyov says he wants is what American free marketeers would call a level playing field: "Our country has huge resources and in the right circumstances people are prepared to work very hard. In conditions of real competition we will not lose. 'All we need is for the rules of the game to be the same for us as for

With Mr Gorbachev trying to dismantle the Soviet state system, some enterprising groups have already tried to do so. Bruce Clark reports

everybody else, so that we can stand on our own feet," he insisted. Mr Korolyov, aged 50, a genial electrical engineer who oozes no-nonsense pragmatism, describes himself as an entrepreneur. And yet that term — in common with so much Western economic vocabulary, including such basic concepts as inflation, recession and unemployment — does not quite mean the same in the Soviet Union as it does in Britain.

For most of his life he was a professional manager within the planned economy. This includes his first two years at the Moscow plant, which makes

intermediate electrical products such as motors, switches and timers, plus a bewildering range of consumer goods. Now his considerable skills as an executive are exercised on behalf of a diverse array of shareholders, including most of the 1,600 workers, one of the factory's main suppliers and a joint venture grouping which includes Italian and Singaporean as well as Soviet interests.

In 1988, three years before a law was passed that sought to establish some legal framework for privatisation, Mr Korolyov quietly slipped the bonds of the planned economy by turning the

enterprise into a worker's co-operative. The Moscow plant, along with its two associated factories in Georgia and near Serpukhov, south of Moscow, was one of the very few manufacturing businesses to take advantage of the controversial measure that allowed a *de facto* private sector under the guise of co-operatives.

Then last year, almost as soon as the relevant law was printed, the enterprise was made into a joint stock company, in which most of the workers accepted invitations to take a stake. But supply problems — including the fact that the Georgian factory has been paralysed by ethnic fighting for six months — mean that this year's revenues will be below 80 per cent of its self-imposed target, arrived at, Mr Korolyov disarmingly states, by assessing the capacity of the plant's machinery. In a country where everything is in short supply, the

question of marketing output does not arise.

While Mr Gorbachev promises his Western interlocutors that he will liberalise prices, the Low Voltage Equipment has taken matters into its own hands, dodging state price regulations by turning out goods that slightly differ from those listed by the government price-setting agency. While the Kremlin promises to rationalise and commercialise interest rates, it has gone ahead and set up its own savings bank for employees, which provides a reserve of capital for the business and more attractive interest rates than state institutions. As President Gorbachev explains Soviet potential in London, Mr Korolyov has to work out how to manage to get an export licence, when sending goods abroad often means stripping the domestic market.

Yugoslav talks founder as delegates fail to turn up

From ANNE McELVOY in BRIONI AND TIM JUDAH in ZAGREB

THE second round of talks intended to resolve the ethnic and political confrontations in Yugoslavia collapsed last night when most of the delegates failed to appear.

It was an unusually accurate symbol of the state of affairs as the country now veers daily between tragedy and farce and fighting is continuing in Croatia. The first round of talks held on the island of Brioni two weeks ago resulted in a ceasefire, which continues to hold uneasily apart from sporadic fighting in border regions and areas with mixed ethnic communities.

The Serbian delegation announced on Monday night that it was boycotting the meeting because it objected to the talks being held on the island, which is part of Croatia. The Serbs said that Belgrade, their own capital, was the only suitable venue for a meeting of the republics. Their decision made it impossible for the conference, intended to bring together the eight-man federal presidency and the presidents of five of the republics, to reach any significant conclusions.

The presidents of the autonomous regions of Montenegro, Kosovo and Vojvodina supported Serbia's protest and also failed to attend. Only the Slovene delegation and Sipe Mesic, the Croat president, and his team appeared in full. Vasil Tupurkovski, the Macedonian president, who is increasingly taking on the role of go-between for the politicians of the other republics, arrived at Brioni and suggested that the leaders should move to Lake Ohrid in Macedonia. "We all want a solution, but I don't think we will get it today," he said, gloomily surveying the deserted harbour.

In the tiny mainland port of Fazana, where the Croatian flag was hung out prominently to greet some guests and offend others, the security guards remained idle and the special fleet of speed boats intended to ferry the politicians and their entourage to and from the island remained in the harbour.

As the internal attempts to resolve Yugoslavia's conflicts stalled on Brioni, there was also a diplomatic stand-off in Zagreb, the Croatian capital.



Mesic: among the few who appeared in Brioni

between the European Community ceasefire monitoring mission and the republic's government. The Croats were astonished when Jo Van der Valk, the head of the EC mission, announced on Monday that Croatia was "not part of the mandate".

Fighting in the republic between the security forces and Serb militants was continuing even as the European team arrived in the country. One policeman was killed in the village of Lipik and nine others were wounded in confrontations on Monday and Tuesday, according to the Croat minister of information.

The Croat and EC officials were still trying last night to clear up the misunderstanding about the observer mission. The memorandum of understanding states that the European monitors will concentrate on Slovenia, and, as appropriate, Croatia.

Davorin Rudolf, the Croat foreign minister, said that he had signed the memorandum, and as far as he was concerned, it meant that the EC team had to monitor clashes in Croatia and the withdrawal of the federal army to barracks. He said: "I have the impression that statements have been made without carefully studying the documents. The memorandum foresees monitoring in Croatian territory, otherwise it would not be meaningful."

However, Mark Hennessy, the spokesman for the 30-strong EC group, said that the word "appropriate" meant that they could observe the withdrawal of federal army units from Slovenia to their barracks in Croatia, if that is where they had come from. "If the parties wish to change the mandate, they can," he said.

The EC observers received their brief after the ceasefire talks on Brioni. Since fighting has now ceased in Slovenia and moved to Croatia, the Croat government had assumed that the word "appropriate" would be strong enough to shift the focus of the EC observers. The team is reluctant to get involved in the disputes between Serb militants and the Croat security forces, because they regard them as being different to the conflicts in Slovenia.

In spite of the confusion about their role, some of the EC observers appeared to be ready to start work yesterday. Dressed in white, they wore blue European flag armbands and flags were also attached to their cars. "We've just begun making acquaintances," said General Johan Koster, of The Netherlands. He said that he had just met the leaders of the Yugoslav army's fifth district, which covers Slovenia and parts of Croatia. "The army want us to do our job in their way," he said. "The Slovenes want us to do it in their way and so do the Croats. We'll do it in our way."



Search for clues: an Athens detective sifting through the wreckage of the car used in the bomb attack yesterday on the Turkish chargé d'affaires

Car bomb in Athens injures Turkish envoy

From CHRIS ELIOU IN ATHENS

THE Turkish chargé d'affaires in Athens and two embassy employees were injured by a car bomb yesterday, 48 hours before President Bush begins visits to Athens and Ankara.

The device was detonated by remote control as an armoured-plated Turkish limousine containing the acting ambassador, Deniz Bolukbasi, and a woman assistant, Nilgan Kececi, left the garden suburb of Psychiko for the embassy in central Athens. Mr

Bolukbasi, who had leg injuries, Mrs Kececi, and the driver were taken to hospital for treatment. The envoy was said later to be out of danger.

The explosion wrecked five other cars, smashed windows within a 250-yard radius, and slightly injured a Greek woman passer-by. The embassy said the limousine's armour plating prevented serious injuries being sustained.

Turkey protested to the Greek government, saying it

was responsible for the protection of embassy staff. Constantine Mitsotakis, the Greek prime minister, condemned the attack and expressed deep regret to his Turkish counterpart, Mesut Yilmaz. A similar message was sent by President Karolos to President Ozal.

Although no group immediately claimed responsibility, police believe the attack bore the hallmarks of the November 17 organisation, which has killed 16 Greeks and Americans since 1975 and carried out more than 20 bomb and rocket attacks in Athens this year on American, French and German banks and offices. It blew up four Turkish diplomatic cars in 1988 when Mr Yilmaz, then foreign minister, visited Athens.

Mr Bolukbasi received a memorandum last Friday from Mr Mitsotakis proposing a zone free of offensive weapons along the common borders of Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey. Bulgaria has welcomed the proposal but Turkey has yet to respond.

Amsterdam: Dutch police said they arrested three Turks, two men and a woman, for a petrol-bomb attack on a Turkish bank in central Amsterdam on Monday night. The three were caught by police after hurling a petrol bomb into the hall of the Turkish-run Pamukbank. There were no injuries but the hall was completely burnt out.

Earlier on Monday, another suspected petrol bomb damaged a Turkish travel office in Amsterdam. Police said they did not know the motive for either attack. The office was daubed with Turkish slogans signed by the left-wing Turkish group, Dev Sol. (Reuters)

Polish court acquits bane of Solidarity in pornography trial

From PATRICIA KOZA IN WARSAW

JERZY Urban, a magazine editor and former government spokesman of the communist regime, was found not guilty of disseminating pornography by a court here yesterday.

It was the first such ruling in Poland, where sex magazines and videos have mushroomed since the end of communist rule in 1989. Mr Urban smiled at reporters from the dock as judge Krzysztof Salej read the verdict. "After considering the case of Jerzy Urban, indicted on charges of spreading pornography, the court finds him not guilty," the judge ruled.

Mr Urban was accused last March of disseminating pornography in *Nie* (No) which, with its mix of satire and sex, has become one of Poland's best-selling magazines. The indictment was based on an October 1990 issue that depicted an explicit sexual act.

"It is not a favourable verdict for me," Mr Urban told reporters after the trial. "I would prefer to be sentenced." He added that a guilty verdict would have boosted his popularity. Mr Urban was the

bane of Solidarity in the years when the union was banned by the communist regime. Now, he said, the magazine he founded sells more than 600,000 copies and is increasing its circulation by 10,000 a week.

"Political forces", he suggested, hinting at Solidarity and the Roman Catholic Church, inspired the trial. "They were looking for a stick to hit the editor-in-chief of *Nie* with, but they found a weak and rotten stick," he remarked.

The trial demonstrated the difficulties of prosecuting pornography under the vague laws of the communist era. During the trial the prosecutor, Stefan Szontakiewicz, said he knew what pornography was: "But the more I know, the more doubts I have," he said.

Mr Urban made the same point on the first day of his trial, insisting that the charges against him were not specified. But he added that he welcomed the trial because it would boost the readership of his magazine.

American city declares bankruptcy

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

RESIDENTS of Bridgeport, once the international capital of the sewing machine, recently acquired a less welcome claim to fame. The port, which overlooks Long Island Sound, became the first big American city to declare bankruptcy.

Compared with its heyday after the civil war, Bridgeport is a wreck: crime rates are rising; parks are closed; and dealers sell drugs on the streets where workers at the Singer company once made their homes. Mary Moran, the Republican mayor, struggling in her first term to make ends meet, said she had no choice but to declare bankruptcy, even though the city has the highest per capita income in Connecticut, which boasts the biggest per capita earnings of any American state.

State officials immediately accused the mayor of playing politics. Several weeks later, however, many of her critics are tempering their barbs after signs emerged that widespread budgetary strain was apparent in small towns, cities and states around the country. Eleven states, including California, Maine, Wisconsin and Connecticut, began a financial year on July 1 without budget agreements because state legislatures opposed their governors' efforts to raise taxes. Several states shut national parks over a holiday weekend or sent employees home.

The National League of Cities, a non-profit coalition in Washington, reported this month that the 1990-1 recession has forced budget deficits on two out of three American cities. Of these, almost half were considered serious. Balancing the books has fast become an impossible art as growing demands for public services have outpaced revenues from property taxes during a property slump.

Lowell Weicker, Connecticut's independent governor, has appeared so embattled in the past few days that Mario Cuomo, his Democrat counterpart in neighbouring New York, telephoned him to offer him political asylum. Mr Weicker aims to drum up at least \$1 billion (\$600 million) in new taxes to reduce a \$2.7 billion deficit, while Mr Cuomo recently emerged bruised from a similar four-month battle in New York.

The arguments are reruns of an impasse that disrupted last year's attempts by the White House and Congress to close an unwieldy federal budget gap with higher taxes. "Tax collections have failed to keep up with growth in expenditures," says Ronald Snell, a director of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Wheeler-dealer thieves return Hong Kong takeaways

From DAVID WATTS IN HONG KONG

THE bad news in Hong Kong these days is that there is a boom in bank and jewellery robberies. The good news is that China has started returning some of the luxury cars stolen to order over the past two years.

Hong Kong's finest are still smarting over a well-organised heist at Kai Tak airport at the weekend that netted the biggest haul in the colony's history — £12 million. But this one may turn out to be one of the simpler cases since a bag lady was picked up soon afterwards, trying to flee the country.

Time was when Hong Kong gangsters followed the old rules and never carried firearms, but there is a

new breed crossing the border from China who think nothing of holding up a bank or jewellery shop in the glitzy areas, not only with the aid of a Kalashnikov rifle but also a grenade or two. What is more, they are often crack shots, giving rise to speculation that they are alumni of either the People's Liberation Army or local militias.

More puzzling to the world-weary detectives, who recently picked up a trio of riders, was their dialect. Nobody could follow a word they were saying. In desperation, the police even tried Vietnamese, to no avail. Perhaps it was a case for Peking's bureau of state security. The gentlemen of the bureau have gone up in Hong Kong's estimation recently after the Mercedes and BMWs that were so artfully stolen

by floating them to China in big rubber coconuts started turning up in the colony again.

Not only were the cars sparkling clean but some had been fitted with new batteries and spare parts. Every one of the first batch returned had been the temporary property of senior bureau officials in Guangdong province just north of the border. If you want your car serviced, just make sure it gets stolen. Sadly for Jaguar owners, they do not attract "steal orders", since the air-conditioning is considered by some not strong enough for steamy Hong Kong.

The air of uncertainty over the sort of place Hong Kong will become after the Chinese takeover in 1997 has some odd consequences. Logic would seem to dictate a soft

residential property market. With 60,000 people leaving the colony for new lives abroad every year, flats and houses to buy should be a snap and rents plunging. Not so. The millions who will have to stay, come what may, have concluded that whatever else the cadres do they will not nationalise the housing market. To be sure, they are queuing to buy any property they can get their hands on. In another sign of the unease that permeates almost everywhere except the offices of the big capitalists, there has been a spell of "shark" sightings. Some people even claim to have been bitten, but after several days of closed beaches the consensus appears to be that they were dolphins.

Nguyen Cao Ky, the flamboyant commander of the now-defunct

South Vietnamese air force, turned up recently, physically unchanged from the days when he strutted his stuff in a designer black tights suit. But he does not feel the same way about communism. Far from castigating the men in Hanoi, he said that all Vietnamese should work together to save their country. What is more, all the boat people crowding into Hong Kong should go back as soon as possible, said one of the original jet people.

The latest breed of jet people, in Hong Kong, feel that boat people are a bit passé too. When a group of six Hong Kong tourists landed in Canada recently, they were amused to find that each person pulled out a different national passport — not one of them a Hong Kong travel document.

السلامة العامة

Dutch seek EC summit on farm deadlock

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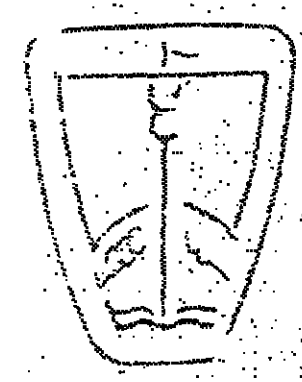
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G7 urges Israel to stop construction of new settlements

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

LEADERS of the world's seven most powerful industrial nations yesterday urged Israel to halt the establishment of new settlements in the occupied territories, and said the Arab countries should drop their economic boycott of Israel.

Delegates at the G7 summit in London also supported the American peace plan for the Middle East, which they said offered the best hope of progress towards a settlement. They said that peace should be based on resolutions 242 and 338 of the United Nations Security Council "and the

principle of territory for peace". It is the first time that the G7 signatories, which have insisted on the principle of territory for peace, have said that Israel must give up occupied Arab territory if it wants a peace settlement.

"We urge all the parties to the dispute to adopt reciprocal and balanced confidence-building measures and to show the flexibility necessary to allow a peace conference to be convened on the basis set out in this initiative," the political declaration issued by the seven leaders said.

Their statement gave clear

backing for the new mission to the Middle East of James Baker, the US Secretary of State, which he will begin as soon as he leaves London. It also expressed their frustration over the glacial pace of Arab-Israeli negotiations, and their fears that unless Mr Baker's initiative is accepted by the Israelis, the opportunity for a breakthrough will disappear as bitterness grows on all sides.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said the seven leaders welcomed the approval given by President Assad of Syria to the American proposals. They listened carefully to a briefing by Mr Baker, and gave him their support as he sought to identify the remaining stumbling blocks to negotiations.

"Israel has for a long time set an objective of discussions with the Arab states," Mr Hurd said. "It looks as though this is now in reach. We all hope that the remaining stumbling blocks can be put out of the way." The foreign secretary will meet David Levy, his Israeli counterpart, probably tomorrow, to brief him on the summit's ideas for peace in the region.

Mr Hurd said the seven leaders had also supported the proposals for openness in arms exports, especially to the Middle East. This did not mean an embargo. The summit had accepted that all countries had a right to defend themselves, and some, such as Kuwait, now needed to rebuild their shattered forces. The countries in the area did not, however, need more than "adequate" defence capabilities. Mr Hurd said it was absurd that Iraq had been allowed to build up a tank force greater than that of Britain and France combined.

The delegates wanted to see an agreed list of weapons holdings by the main arms importers, and then they would work out a common approach to how any further exports could be monitored. Mr Hurd denied that these proposals clashed with Britain's recent offer to lift the European Community ban on arms sales to Syria.

The summit leaders agreed that the Gulf war had shown the need for collective action against threats to peace, to settle disputes peacefully, and to uphold the rule of law and protect human rights. "These principles are essential to the civilised conduct of relations between states."



Mask of time: Buddhist monks yesterday in Ulan-Ude, Soviet Central Asia, marking the 250th anniversary of Russia's recognition of Buddhism

Peking opens doors to Hun Sen

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

CHINA played host for the first time yesterday to leaders of all Cambodia's factions, including the leader of the Vietnam-backed government, Hun Sen, whose presence previously has been unacceptable to the Chinese.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the resistance leader, is chairing the two-day meeting of members of the Supreme National Council in Peking, who include Norodom Ranariddh, Son Sann, and Khieu Samphan. At the meeting, Mr Hun Sen is expected to argue in favour of amending the UN Security Council peace plan for Cambodia.

That Mr Hun Sen should be invited to Peking at all is a signal of increasing flexibility

on China's part. In the past few years, Peking has repeatedly attacked the Vietnam-backed government in Phnom Penh. At this point, however, China also seems eager to find an end to the 12-year conflict in Cambodia.

The increased flexibility over the future of Cambodia

has gone hand in hand, during the past year, with better relations between China and Vietnam. It seems likely that the prime minister, Li Peng, will meet Mr Hun Sen in the company of the other Cambodian leaders at a reception this evening in the Great Hall of the People.

Mandela granted leave to appeal

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

WINNIE Mandela was yesterday granted leave to appeal against a six-year prison sentence for kidnapping and assault charges, after the trial judge acknowledged that he had relied essentially on circumstantial evidence.

Mr Justice Michael Stegmann maintained that his judgment had been correct, but he accepted defence counsel arguments that the case should be referred to the appellate division in Bloemfontein, the highest court in South Africa.

Mandela, aged 56, was convicted on May 13 of conspiracy to kidnap four black youths from a church mission in Soweto, and of being an accessory to their subsequent assault at her home. Molliswa Falati, aged 36, her housekeeper, was also sentenced to six years in jail.

Nelson Mandela, the president of the African National Congress, accompanied his wife to the hearing in the Rand supreme court in Johannesburg. They listened to the arguments, and smiled when Mr Justice Stegmann granted the application. There were no crowds outside the court and the couple left without commenting on the ruling.

In an 11-page application, George Bizos, for the defence, said Mandela's conviction had not been based on direct evidence. "In the main, there is no credible evidence to contradict the applicant on any of the major issues in the trial, because the findings of credibility against her are based upon inferences drawn from various facts and circumstances." He added: "It is submitted that the damning finding that she is not above intrigue and conspiracy to mislead, based as it is at least partly on the above inferences, is unfounded."

Jan Swasepoel, the state prosecutor, opposed the application, saying Mandela either had a direct intention or *dolus eventualis* to obstruct justice. "Nothing less than a reasonable prospect of success [for the appeal] must exist. That is absent in this case," he said.

Hezbollah agrees to integrate militia

Beirut — Hezbollah, the pro-Iranian Muslim fundamentalist group which had been against the peace plan in Lebanon, has agreed to integrate its militia into the Lebanese army and police (Ali Jaber writes).

It is a significant reversal of policy for Hezbollah, believed to be behind the kidnappings of foreigners and attacks against Western interests here since 1983. Sheikh Abbas Musawi, its leader, will provide lists of his militiamen wishing to join government rehabilitation centres for subsequent integration into army and police forces.

Aid from widow

Taipei — Soong Mayling, the widow of Taiwan's late nationalist leader, Chiang Kai-shek, pledged \$460,000 in aid for victims of devastating floods in China. Peking said last week that more than 1,300 people died in the floods and direct economic losses were nearly \$2 billion. (Reuter)

Protest victims

Yaounde — Four people were killed and dozens injured in clashes between government supporters and pro-democracy activists in the northern Cameroon town of Meiganga. Rivals used shotguns, knives and machetes when some residents tried to get the town to join a general strike. (AP)

Flood deaths

Delhi — At least 60 people have been killed in floods after monsoon rain forced thousands to flee their homes in the western Indian state of Gujarat and the eastern states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. (AFP)

Capital account

Meknes, Morocco — A gangster stabbed a rival to death, cut off his head, and took it into a bar. Asked to settle his bill after getting drunk, Souhi Abderrahman, known as "The Madman", put his victim's head on the counter, saying: "He will pay you, not me." Mr Abderrahman was arrested. (AFP)

UN says Iraqi nuclear bomb is 'matter of time'

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE failure of intelligence agencies to detect Iraq's "enormous, clandestine" nuclear weapons programme and the help given by the West in supplying dual-use equipment that President Saddam Hussein could use in military installations are two key concerns facing Western governments.

As the special United Nations team investigating Saddam's nuclear programme has announced the discovery of another undeclared site, UN officials said yesterday that "it's just a question of time" before Iraq can produce its first atomic bomb.

Iraq is reported to have produced 90lb of enriched uranium, using antiquated methods developed by the United States in the second world war Manhattan project. It takes about 50lb of enriched uranium to produce a bomb. Nuclear specialists in Washington expressed amazement that Iraq had managed to conceal from Western surveillance more than 30 uranium enrichment units, enough to produce a bomb a year.

The latest undeclared uranium enrichment plant was found at al-Sharqat, between Mosul and Tikrit, Saddam's birthplace. The plant is six to 18 months from production, according to Professor Maurizio Zifferero, who is in charge of the International Atomic Energy Agency inspection team in Iraq. He said it was

similar to one at Tarmiyah, which used electromagnetic separation equipment to produce bomb-grade uranium.

Before the start of the Gulf war, the Central Intelligence Agency, the American defence intelligence agency and other intelligence services, particularly those in Britain and Israel, assessed Saddam's potential nuclear capability. None had any idea of the size of the nuclear programme.

Yet it was the CIA, British intelligence services and customs officials that helped to thwart Iraq's attempt to import nuclear triggering devices last year. In July last year, three industrial furnaces, which could have been used to make parts for nuclear weapons, were prevented from being shipped to Iraq. The Iraqis claimed that the furnaces were to be used for producing titanium for artificial limbs.

In spite of the clear indications of what Saddam was up to, the West appeared convinced that it could prevent him from building a nuclear bomb by ensuring that sophisticated technology, vital for completing an atomic weapons programme, never reached Baghdad. This policy had two flaws, however. First, Iraq decided to concentrate on old bomb-making technologies, and second, Western firms sold Iraq dual-use equipment such as machine tools that ended up in military factories.

Tamils claim advance in siege

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN COLOMBO

TAMIL rebel leaders said yesterday that their guerrillas had entered a besieged army garrison after the fiercest battle with government troops since the start of Sri Lanka's eight-year civil war.

Military officials denied the claim and said troop reinforcements were on the way to relieve surrounded soldiers at the Elephant Pass garrison. The camp, which straddles the

causeway linking the northern Jaffna peninsula to the rest of the island, has been under siege for the past week. Scores of Tamil Tiger rebels and troops have been killed, but the two sides have given sharply contrasting figures on death tolls.

The army said that it had lost 22 soldiers and killed at least 50 Tiger guerrillas. However, Lawrence Thilaker, a spokesman for the Tigers, said from a rebel office in Paris that at least 100 soldiers had

been killed. "Comparatively, our losses are light. We have lost 20 dead and less than 30 wounded."

Mr Thilaker said that rebels entered the camp after fierce hand-to-hand fighting on Monday night. He said that an amphibious landing by government reinforcements on Sunday night was beaten back. Military officials said the reinforcements had secured a beachhead about four miles east of Elephant Pass and were moving toward the besieged

camp. "We are facing heavy resistance and a hostile terrain," said one officer. "But we are moving." At least 1,000 soldiers are besieged at Elephant Pass, the closest government military installation to the rebel headquarters in Jaffna. The army also said the battle was the fiercest in the civil war. The Tamil Tigers have generally employed classic hit-and-run guerrilla tactics than go in for prolonged and conventional military assaults.

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Charles Bremner

Fighting dirty for the bald truth

FOR the past two years, some prominent Americans have lived in fear of being "outed". This is the controversial technique, practised by Queer Nation and other militant homosexual groups, of exposing "closet gays".

Film stars, politicians, television journalists and prominent doctors and businessmen have featured on lists posted around the city and published in magazines such as *Outweek*. That New York weekly has just closed as a result of feuding among the editors, but the militants of Queer Nation have promised to fight on to reveal the homosexuality of certain "politicians" and Pentagon spokesmen — whatever it takes to do so.

Now a different militant group has latched on to the same logic. The Bald Urban Liberation Brigade (Bulb) has informed New York newspapers that it is embarking on "a radical media campaign to wrest the toupées from the chrome domes of America's leading celebrities". Bulb has already begun pasting up "Absolutely Bald" posters which seem to be mod-



Bronson: a top target of the pate police

elled on the Absolutely Queer ones circulated by the homosexuals.

The first victims include Ted Danson, the film star and macho barman in *Heels*, the most popular show on American television, as well as Charles Bronson and Larry Hagman. Tom Brokaw, the anchorman of NBC television, is listed as "probably bald". The stigma of hair loss seems to remain as strong as ever, despite the efforts of the new "sensitivity police" to expunge discriminatory thinking and speech. The hirsute should,

we are told, avoid referring to baldness as such and use instead the term "follically challenged".

Shopping has turned into an arduous ethical exercise of late. Earth-conscious people, for example, need to remember whether the parent corporation of a toothpaste also sells tuna fish caught in inhumane nets or tests its cosmetics on cats. Then there is the question of whether Satan makes the soap. As implausible as it may seem in the age of information overload, a substantial number of customers are convinced that Procter & Gamble, the world's biggest maker of household products, is in league with the Devil.

The story that Beelzebub has a hand in Ivory Soap and Pampers nappies has been around for about a decade, but P & G are reporting a new surge of boycotts and calls to its devil hotline.

In the latest version, leaflets have been circulating around the country stating that the P & G president appeared on the popu-

lar show hosted by Phil Donahue on March 1 and announced he was "coming out of the closet" about his company's financial support for the "Church of Satan". The Donahue show has set up an answering system telling callers that "the president of Procter & Gamble has never appeared on the Donahue show. If your family and friends say they have seen it, they are quite mistaken."

But all the denials and "truth packages" put out by P & G, as well as testimonials from Billy Graham and other famous evangelists, have failed to kill the tale. Five years ago, the Satan rumour forced P & G to drop its 19th-century logo, which features the man in the Moon and 13 stars, from its products. According to believers, the stars, representing the 13 founding states, formed 666, the symbol of the Beast. This week, the company confirmed that it was redesigning the logo.

P & G has successfully sued half a dozen small business competitors for deliberately spreading the rumour.

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Putting the jobless to good use

The unemployment figures are good news for politicians who use them — and the media — to their own advantage, Philip Bassett reports

At 11am tomorrow, half a dozen civil servants will sit down in a windowless room off Whitehall to give an unattributable briefing to a dozen or so journalists. At the same time, a few floors above them, three or four television crews will be setting up. In the Commons, Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary, will be glancing at his watch, waiting for 11.30. At 10 Downing Street, Michael Howard, the employment secretary, will be working his way through the cabinet agenda and making final preparations for a round of television interviews.

These are the final few moments of calm before a media storm. From 11.30am on a particular Thursday each month, a media whirligig buzzes around the unemployment figures, as politicians seek to put their own political spin on the number out of work. Unemployment has always been heavily reported, but with the number of jobless rising — tomorrow's unemployment total of about 2.3 million will mark the fifteenth successive monthly increase since the number out of work started going up again last year — ahead of a looming general election, the politics of unemployment are suddenly of sharp interest. Unemployment, according to the polls, is back on top of the list of the public's concerns. With unemployment rising twice as fast in Conservative-held Parliamentary seats as Labour-held, the government's need to ensure that the media present the jobless figures in the best possible light is matched only by the desire of the Labour party to deploy its now considerable range of media skills to use the figures as a stick with which to beat the government.

Even before the jobless figures are set before the media, their presentation has been carefully calculated (see panel, right). When the figures are out, the presentation race is on. "It's mad," Mr Blair says. "From 11.30 to about 1.10, it's mad."

While the newspaper journalists are downstairs absorbing the fine print of the figures, upstairs in the Commons, the employment department's headquarters, a different drama is being played out. Downstairs, it's all statistics, upstairs, it's all politics, as Mr Howard puts a political gloss on the figures for the BBC, ITN, Channel 4, Sky and a clutch of radio reporters, before heading out to a radio car to Jim Naughtie and Radio 4's *The World at One*, rubbing shoulders with Mr Blair on his way back from doing the same for Labour.



Statistically speaking: the monthly unemployment figures give Michael Howard (left) and Tony Blair, his Labour shadow, their chance to shine

There is a significant difference between the two, one which largely favours the politicians. Print journalists, who have more time, can often be more searching in their questioning. Electronic journalists, racing to get something back for the one o'clock news bulletin, are not much interested in lengthy sessions. Wrestling with the near-intractable problem statistics hold for the electronic media — how do you make numbers work on television? — they, like the politicians, want a clip which neatly and punchily gives them a politician for their package, and which in return gives a good news story to the opportunity to get across what he wants.

Behind this sophisticated use of the media by politicians lie similar efforts by lobby groups. Although still in their infancy, compared with Washington or Brussels, Whitehall and Westminster are fertile ground for lobbyists, for whom the media are another means to an end. In advance of each month's unemployment figures come ideas, research and initiatives from groups such as the Unemployment Unit and the Employment Institute, each angling for column inches and an appearance on Radio 4's *Today*. Molly Meacher, the director of the Campaign for Work, says her group releases material "to try to make sure that in the next election the figures will not be ignored".

Labour, too, now weighs in not just with political attacks, but with carefully constructed computer analyses of unemployment and vacancies, aimed at catching the government off its guard on what Labour sees as a vulnerable issue. When unemployment was last on the rise, a decade ago, no such sophisticated media techniques were in use. With an election 12 months away at most, the political pace is quickening. The government may not be able to do much about rising unemployment, but that makes it all the more eager to control, as far as it can, the media presentation of the number out of work. That in turn means television screens and newspaper headlines will remain unemployment's political battleground.

brief Michael Howard, the employment secretary, on what the figures are, what the journalists' questions might be, and offer suggestions on what, if anything, the government's line on the figures should be. At this stage, the next day's press release is drafted, and approved by Mr Howard. Television and radio soundbites are worked out. All that remains then is for bundles of the press releases to be printed in-house and kept overnight, under tight security, ready for formal release.

parallel the easing of unemployment a decade ago. The suggestion was taken up by television and radio that day and in the following day's newspapers, and heavily, since then, by City analysts. At this meeting, the press officers try to second-guess the questions from the journalists who attend the Thursday morning briefing just before the figures are published, and get from the statisticians the answers they think they will need. On Tuesday afternoon, and again on Wednesday morning, the information officers and the statisticians

media specialists become at least as important as the statisticians, if not more so. On the Tuesday morning, Barry Sutcliffe, the department's head of information, and Graham Blakeway, his chief press officer, sit down with the statisticians, and usually someone from the Treasury, to work out what the figures are saying and what the department should be saying about them. Last month they thought the department should suggest tentatively, that the slowing down of the increase in the figures might be

How data goes from dole queue to page one

Rise in unemployment is highest for 10 years

Ministers take hope from lower increase in unemployment

SCANDAL OF 2m ON DOLE

MEDIA WATCH

Out of luck

IPC Magazines has been censured by the Advertising Standards Authority for a misleading promotion on the front cover of *Me* magazine which said: "Play the lucky numbers game... win prizes worth over £100,000". Inside, readers were told they had to buy two more issues in which the winning numbers would be printed, as well as dial a premium rate telephone line to hear further numbers. When a reader complained, she was told that only a predetermined set of numbers were winners, and that her own fell in a block which was "unlucky". The authority ruled objected to use of the phrase "lucky numbers", and ruled that its use is acceptable only when there was some chance of winning prizes. It also said that *Me* should have told readers on its front cover that they would need to buy two more issues.

Show and tell

THE BBC plans to launch a radio and television roadshow to show licence payers they are getting value for money. The roadshow, which will explain how licence money is spent, follows the success of "Radio Goes to Town", which has visited a dozen major towns and cities over the past two years, showing more than a million people how the five national radio networks, and local radio, operate. The BBC is expected to give the new roadshow the green light after Radio Goes to Town makes its final appearances this autumn in Belfast, Bournemouth and Blackpool.

A matter of taste

THE Independent Television Commission (ITC) clashed yesterday with the Broadcasting Standards Council (BSC), the statutory arbiter of taste and decency on television, over five viewers' complaints, including a BSC judgment against a rape scene in the film *Hotel New Hampshire*, shown on Channel 4 at 9.45 pm. The ITC also disagreed with the council over Channel 4's *B.R. Mysteries of the Organism*, which it felt acceptable with a warning after 10.00pm. The ITC, upheld two complaints out of a total of 418 received between April and June: Channel 4's *Sex and the Censors* because of sexually explicit scenes and *The Ribald Tales of Canterbury*, broadcast at midnight on The Home Video Channel, for "explicit sexual detail which was unacceptable at any time."

Jazz blues

A NUMBER of attempts to persuade the Radio Authority to let Jazz FM, the loss-making London radio station, stray from its promise of performance, have been rejected by the regulator, which says it will never alter any station's agreed format. Several groups wanted to take over the station, but only on condition it would be allowed to play rock or pop. Jazz FM, which has been taken over by a team including David Maker and David Astor, is meanwhile planning to rejuvenate itself with a more popular, mainstream mix of music between 6am and 6pm. The changes are well within Jazz's promise of performance, which defines jazz "in the widest sense" —



David Maker: investor

everything from big band music, vocal and instrumental standards, to urban contemporary dance, soul, blues and bebop, and future developments of any of these genres. John Bradford, the managing director of Jazz, says he hopes the new format will increase ratings from the present 520,000 to more than 700,000.

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In formal oils or photographs, generations of Eton College leavers are celebrated in an exhibition. Alastair Robertson reports

Portrait of an Old Etonian

The health minister, the Right Hon. William Waldegrave, has a file. In it he keeps school leaving photographs of 18-year-old Etonians, friends and contemporaries from his days as an Etonian during the early Sixties, a time when he read his way through Ruskin's *The Stones of Venice* — and enjoyed it.

His file may even contain the odd rogue. "I am sure there are, but I had better not name them. They are all senior people in the City nowadays," he ventures, by way, one hopes, of a joke.

The individual leaving photograph, or leaver, has hardly attained the same level of artistry as the 18th and 19th century leaving portraits of the socially acceptable who sat for, among others, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Sir Thomas Lawrence and George Richmond. The portraits form the bulk of the Dulwich Picture Gallery's exhibition of "Eton Leaving Portraits", which opens on Thursday.

Yet a handful of the pocket-sized photographs is included in the exhibition, among them James Waldegrave (1959), elder brother of William, now Viscount Chewton; Jonathan Aitken (1961), now Con-

servative MP for Thanet South; and Nicholas Soames (1965), now Conservative MP for Crawley. The photographs remain purely unofficial, but fill a pictorial gap between the demise of formal portraits at the turn of the century and their recent revival under the provostship of Lord Charteris of Amisfield.

"We have some 1940s photographs, and there is a type; the faces are very different of that period. Very arrogant, some of them. In the Sixties they became less arrogant looking, as it wasn't so fashionable," says the director of the gallery, Giles Waterfield, an Eton boy of the mid Sixties.

Whether a modern Etonian, his hair parted and plastered to his scalp, would really look a lot different from his forebears is, Mr Waterfield concedes, "a nice point". Conversely, would the sleekly opulent form of Nicholas Soames, whose leaving photograph is inscribed "one of your problem boys!", look any better for a gold earring and Dennis the Menace T-shirt?

Photographs are still distrib-

uted in their hundreds by boys. It is a custom Mr Waldegrave sees not as some sort of Etonian vanity, but more "a rather amiable way of saying thank you".

Some thanks can be ambiguous. Mr Body, an Eton tailor famed for his painstaking work, proudly displayed a leaving photograph inscribed "Mr Body — where's the other bloody leg, then?"

By the mid Sixties the leaving photograph had changed beyond recognition. No longer did boys traipse down Eton High Street to the studios of Hills & Saunders. Nikon-wielding friends draped their sitters over dustbins and other suitably proletarian props.

Sam Llewellyn, the son of a bishop and now a hugely successful paperback author of rollicking nautical yarns, remembers: "We were cool-man-denim, beatnik and barefoot. Dark glasses certainly came into it somewhere. You got the picture taken by a friend and stuck it on a piece of cardboard box."

Things have not noticeably improved; soulfully grumpy youths still clutch electric guitars below the legend "Max — keep on rockin' — Sebastian".

The arrival of informality was not welcomed by everyone. Mary Veitch, for 16 years

Dame, or house matron, at the Rev David Wild's house, festooned her door and picture rail with leavers, a fresh batch each year. But she was not attracted by the modern trend. "No, not very nice," says Miss Veitch, now retired and living in the Borders. "But I have them all in a box now, in a wardrobe. Sometimes I'll hear or read of a boy I'll go through it to find the photograph."

Mr Waldegrave does the same. "It's quite interesting seeing what people looked like when they were 18." Had he not arrived in the school at a time when it was no longer commissioning painted portraits, Mr Waldegrave, who will open the Dulwich exhibition this evening, might have found himself hanging alongside his forebear John James Waldegrave, 6th Earl Waldegrave, a successful soldier in the Napoleonic wars. He died, according to the health minister, from yellow fever.

The custom of requesting a portrait from the parents of leav-

ing boys was established in the 1750s by Edward Barnard, who was not just Head Master but a first-rate PR and marketing man. His own salary and those of his masters were dependent on the fees he could attract. Dr Barnard and subsequent Head Masters were able to impress prospective parents with pictorial evidence of their past successes painted by the great artists of the day. Quite how they explained away the Hon. John Damer, Dorchester's eldest boy, painted by Reynolds, who was last heard of cavorting with "four common women and a blind fiddler" before shooting himself in a pub, is not recorded.

But Eton, as its longevity would suggest, has made some smart choices over the centuries. Most of its youthful sitters for portraits turned out to be influential figures for good or bad in their own spheres of politics or the arts, the armed forces or academia. Charles Grey, later 2nd Earl Grey, painted by George Romney, became one of the nation's most nepotistic



Ancestral voices: James Waldegrave's 1959 leaving photograph and the formal Eton portrait of his forebear, John James Waldegrave



Leaving photographs of Nicholas Soames (left) and Jonathan Aitken

prime ministers and introduced the Reform Bill. Viscount Stanley, later 13th Earl of Derby, painted by Lawrence, devoted himself to zoology and presented his animals to Regent's Park; the untitled William Charles Cotton sat for Margaret Carpenter about 1832

and sailed off to convert the perfectly happy Maoris to Christianity. A fair proportion appears to have carried bits of regalia at various coronations. They travelled and battled, improved estates, lost estates, wrote poems in Latin and whored or

prayed with the best and worst of their generations. Some even stayed at home with their families. In short, the lifestyle and employment profiles of the Old Etonian have changed remarkably little over the centuries, however he chooses to portray himself.

Today sitters for official portraits are chosen not for their parents' ability to pay the fees, but because they have excelled in some field or represent a change, such as the unique portrait of a girl, Emily Bourny, daughter of housemaster "Bobby" Bourne, a pupil for two years in the Eighties. Her portrait is not, however, included among the exhibition's modern works by Michael Noakes, Richard Foster and Paul Branson — "to avoid confusion", Mr Waterfield says mysteriously. Men, it is true, can find girls rather confusing, as the tale of poor John Damer would suggest. But then he was involved with four of them and a blind fiddler. Can Mr Waldegrave's photographic file produce anything better?

& BRIEFLY

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Robot guards

ADVANCES, too, in the field of household robots. You may remember them rolling around *Idiot's Paradise* exhibitions in the Eighties serving drinks, but at several thousand pounds they never quite caught on. Now Samsung is about to launch a Scout About "guard" robot in the United States. Rather like its playroom predecessors, the Tomy Pesters, it will prowl about until it senses movement, then it will sound an alarm. This robot — a chunky circular thing without any humanoid pretensions — will sell for about £600, but there are no plans yet to introduce it to Britain.

Trusty tea

LAST year more than four million cups of tea were served in the tearooms and restaurants of National Trust properties. The NT's pure blend specialty tea — Assam Ceylon, Darjeeling and Earl Grey — are also available in packets and tins from its 200 shops, and by mail order. New this month are a roship herbal infusion, a chamomile herbal infusion, lemon fruit tea and blackcurrant fruit tea, which can all be packed in a new "afternoon tea" floral caddy at £5.25 for 250g. The NT shares its tea-time recipes, too, in the *National Trust Book of Tea-time Recipes* (£7.95). For details or orders contact National Trust Enterprises, PO Box 101, Melksham, Wiltshire SN12 8EA.

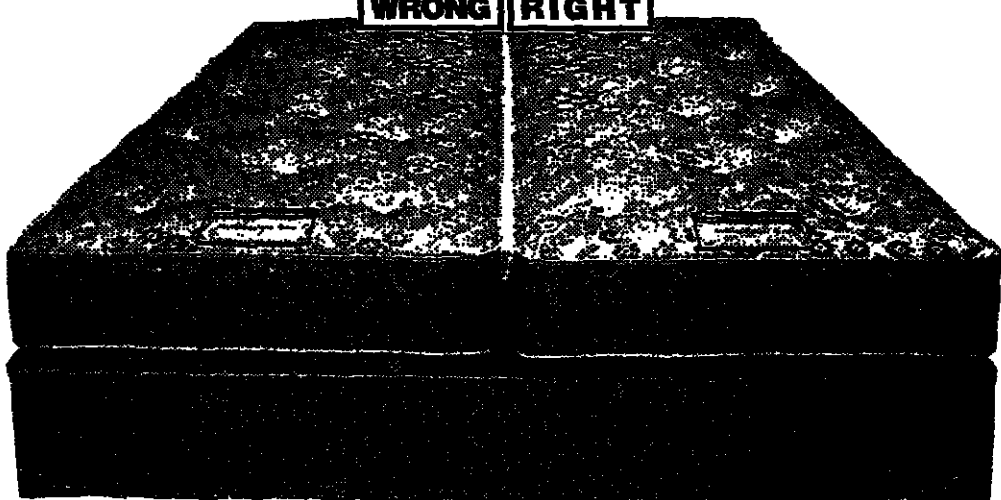
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All patronising foreigners welcome here

British galleries are on the receiving end of international benefaction yet again. Do the givers' motives matter?

For the second time in six weeks, the same name crops up. Last month the Queen opened the admirable new galleries in the Royal Academy, built thanks to a benefaction from Jill and Arthur M. Sackler of New York. Tomorrow Princess Margaret opens two galleries at the British Museum, refurbished thanks to the generosity of Raymond and Beverly Sackler, also of New York.

One of the galleries Princess Margaret will open has as its centrepiece a display of the unparalleled treasures that Sir Leonard Woolley uncovered in the 1920s, in his excavations of the city of Ur of the Chaldees in southern Iraq. They include golden necklaces and diadems, and the inlaid panel known as the Standard of Ur. The other gallery displays collections from ancient Nubia, dating from the stone age to the coming of Islam.

Dr Raymond Sackler is the brother of the late Dr Arthur Sackler, who died in 1987. Britain has good reason to be grateful to the Sackler family. The Royal Academy and the British Museum are reticent about the cash value of the donations they have received towards these projects; in each case, the family's benefactions are described as covering "a substantial part" of the overall cost, which is £400,000 in the case of the British Museum's new displays, and £9.6 million for the development at Burlington House as a whole.

Raymond Sackler is a medical researcher and businessman, who made his fortune in pharmaceuticals. He controls the company manufacturing Betadine, used in the care of ulcers and skin infections. The fortunes of his brother Arthur, a psychiatric researcher, were based on a medical journal he founded, and patent rights to the tranquilliser Valium.

Dr Arthur Sackler was a collector and benefactor on a giant scale, whose collections spanned many cultures and media. He was a magnate in the imperious tradition of Morgan, Mellon and Hammer, revelling in the power of his wealth and connections: in 1984 he conjured up three US military transport jets at short notice, to fly an exhibition of treasures from the V & A to Edinburgh festival.

London's museums have made rich gains recently from such intercontinental philanthropy. Two days after the Queen was at Burlington House, the Prince of Wales was at the Victoria & Albert Museum, opening a new gallery of Chinese art, which had been financed by a gift of £1.25 million from Tsui Tsin Tong of Hong Kong. In December 1992 the V & A plans to open a new gallery devoted to Korean art, made possible by sponsorship worth £430,000 from Samsung, the Korean electronics company.

Last year the Heinz family of Pittsburgh gave £2 million to add a new library and archive to the National Portrait Gallery. In 1988 Walter Annenberg, the former US ambassador in London, gave £2.8 million to the National Gallery to refurbish the rooms where its Impressionist and



Figure of a goat from the "great death pit" at Ur

post-impressionist paintings are shown.

These handsome windfalls have not been handsomely received by all. "Their generosity is not in question,"

But what are their motives? asked the arts journalist Susan Morris in the June issue of *The Antique Collector*. She referred in particular to the Sacklers and Mr Tsui, with a quantity of innuendo. She concluded that their motives were "immortality" and a "vision of global scale patronage" — without quite suggesting that there was anything wrong with either.

The desire for the immortality of one's name over the portals of an art gallery seems relatively innocent as motives go. For years the art market has been distorted by millionaires bidding up prices for the reflected glory of possessing famous works. Endowing galleries where art can be worthily displayed and enjoyed confers a more useful immortality than gratifying one's individual pride of ownership.

As for "global scale patronage", if a millionaire rises above nationalism to spread his renown before wider audiences, he spreads the benefits of his philanthropy correspondingly. Much of the material in the galleries Princess Margaret opens tomorrow would otherwise still be locked in the vaults of a museum too poor to display them. Long may the international windfalls continue.

GEORGE HILL

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Banging the drum for all his orchestras

The controller of Radio 3 is in combative mood this week, as Richard Morrison found

John Drummond, never exactly taciturn, is in wonderfully expansive form. The approach of his departure next year from the job of controller of BBC Radio 3 seems to have unfettered his most florid verbal flights. His recent lashing of Nigel Kennedy's videos has, if anything, further fuelled his eloquence. Journalists have been regaled with insights into the planning of his sixth Proms season, which begins on Friday. Likewise, Radio 4 listeners, Drummond's voice, his opinions, are everywhere.

But for *The Times*, he reserves his warmest greeting. "Last year you celebrated the Proms with a particularly unpleasant piece about how bad the BBC's orchestras were," he recalls cordially, as we settle into BBC armchairs. Some 360 days have passed, but the bruise is clearly still a bit tender. The article, I demur, was not about BBC orchestras, but about the illogicality of the BBC seeking commercial sponsorship for the Proms. Drummond will not be denied. "You wrote a feature saying that the BBC orchestras were second-rate." I didn't say that. "That was the implication, and it was minuted as such at a BBC governors meeting," he says triumphantly. So that proves it.

He continues in similar spleen for an impressive length of time. "Damning sentences... big question in the new management over the future of the orchestras..." I wonder whether the radio programme called *A Word in Edgewise* was devised in this office.

Finally, a word in edgewise. If Drummond were setting up a BBC music department from scratch, I observe, he would surely not consider creating four in-house symphony orchestras.

"Really? Why not? Do you know what they do? Do you know about their commissions, the tours they do, the work they do in the communities? This is an easy

snipe, you see. We've had lots of this over the years."

He is, however, not averse to the odd easy snipe of his own. "I never know whether you critics have ever run anything, or know how difficult it is to run things. You don't actually employ people. I employ hundreds of people."

Drummond's theory is that every time someone writes a "hostile piece" about the BBC orchestras, he loses players from those orchestras. "Hanging on to the best players is what I'm about." He has just spent three years negotiating a new contract with the orchestras, "forcing it through the union, getting terms that actually make sense for broadcasting." He admits that it is "a truly expensive deal" but maintains that BBC orchestras will now be paid at a level which

will ensure they keep the best players. "But," he concludes sadly, "we get this constant sniping." Surely the sniping started within the BBC itself, didn't the corporation attempt to sack 172 musicians in 1980? "Yes, you're absolutely right. But I don't expect it to come from music critics. In the last few years we have worked our socks off to make sure we have the best players, the best conductors. I mean, the BBC Philharmonic far outstrips the Hallé Orchestra in Manchester. There isn't a better orchestra in Scotland than the BBC Scottish. Yet nobody ever says anything nice about the BBC orchestras. For 50 years it's been a matter of sniping."

Is it really "sniping", I wonder, to point out when a *status quo* is irrational? "Why does it always have to be the BBC that gets rid of orchestras?" counters Drummond. "If there is another orchestra in the picture, it's always suggested that the BBC has to back down. Why doesn't the Royal Philharmonic go to the wall? The BBC Symphony Orchestra is an incomparably better orchestra. People go on about radical solutions: getting rid of the orchestras; having a [BBC] baroque

orchestra or an opera orchestra. The really radical thing would be if people started loving the BBC orchestras, instead of this constant sniping." Still, Drummond's eternal vigilance against the pestilent snipers appears to have paid off, since he has managed to hold on to all his orchestras. "Well, I've held on to them so far. So far. My successor will have to battle."

On Proms sponsorship, he has been less successful. He set his face against simply selling off the Last Night to the highest bidder, believing (rightly) that the Proms' integrity would not survive piecemeal sponsorship. But in the present recession, the kind of global sponsor or with the necessary cash to sponsor the whole Proms has not materialised. Drummond seems not too distressed. "I am a very good, pragmatic public servant. I was asked to seek sponsorship for the Proms. I've sought it, and it's not come."



John Drummond: "Even if I were not running the Proms I would still think they are one of the great glories of European music."

Without being asked, he brings up the subject of Nigel Kennedy. Drummond has discovered, it seems, more truly horrific details about the Kennedy video of Brahms's Violin Concerto, this time concerning shots of the conductor Klaus Tennstedt. "Do you know where the shots of Tennstedt came from?" he cries. "They came from a recording of Mahler's First Symphony!"

I reply that this claim does not surprise me. My dreary phlegmatism only rouses Drummond to greater ire. "What do you mean, it doesn't surprise you? For goodness sake! Come on! You should be in an absolutely white indignation about music being treated that way, about Tennstedt being treated that way, about Brahms being treated that way."

But Kennedy is just one classical performer among thousands. Since nearly all the others conform to the white-tie-and-tails ethos, why get steamed up about the odd man out? "Because," says Drummond, "we're told constantly that this is the way forward for classical music. It is not. It's one way of reaching a transient audience. I don't believe that many of those who bought the video of the Brahms will actually be coming to many of the more serious Proms, or any other serious concerts."

Drummond's own attempt to bring Radio 3 a new youthful audience has, by contrast, been strikingly successful. We have his word for it. Although audience research tells him that the Radio 3 audience is like himself ("middle-aged, white, professional, middle-class"), he receives "hundreds of letters from people of 16 or 22 or 25". It is just that "the audience researchers never get to these people." He is sure that his programmes are reaching the people who matter. "I know that *Third Ear* is listened to by the

entire arts community in this country," he claims. Next year, somebody else will be Radio 3's champion. Drummond's indefatigable act will take some beating. He is coy about rumours that he will retain control of the Proms. "I have suggested that, after my time here, the network and music controllerships should remain together, but that the Proms could be done by someone else."

One suspects that Drummond would dearly love to be involved in planning a few more seasons. "Every year there is sniping: you know, 'oh goodness, there's only one Haydn symphony'. I'm not in the least worried about that. Even if I were not running the Proms I would still think they are one of the great glories of European music."

On that we can agree.

● The 97th season of Henry Wood Promenade Concerts begins on Friday and continues until September 14. This year, all take place at the Albert Hall.

BRIEFING

Prudent choices

BRITAIN's richest arts prize may be sponsored by an insurance company, but the judges for this year's Prudential Awards have certainly not played safe. Winner of the dance award is Lloyd Newson's provocative DV8 Physical Theatre, whose most famous work is *Dead Dreams of Monochrome Men*, based on the murderous activities of Dennis Nilsen. The opera prize goes to Mecklenburgh Opera: only three years old, but it beat English National Opera and Opera North.

The Scottish Chamber Orchestra won for music, Dulwich Picture Gallery for the visual arts and the Gate Theatre, Notting Hill, for theatre. Each winner received £25,000 yesterday, and goes on the shortlist for an overall award of £75,000 to be announced in November.

West bound

JUSTINO Diaz, who has been on the wrong end of a plunging dagger from Maria Ewing in the Royal Opera's recent "big screen" *Tosca* performances, is unexpectedly stepping straight into another Puccini part at Covent Garden. His duties as Scarpia over, he will tonight sing the role of Jack Rance in *La fanciulla del West*, replacing the ailing Silvano Caroli at a few days' notice.

Last chance...

DOWN on Cold Comfort Farm at the Watmell Theatre, Newbury (0635 46044), the sukebino grows apace and the Sturkadders grimly pursue their rustic antics. Paul Doust's ingenious stage version of the Stella Gibbons novel is set mostly inside the theatre but, weather permitting, scenes also take place in the rose garden and at the water's edge. The run ends on Saturday.

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WORLD MUSIC

There are many mansions and as many keys

Two festivals this week offer contrasting views of world music. David Toop reports



Baaba Maal: an intellectual iconoclast at WOMAD

The planet is shrinking. Fax machines, computer networks, satellite television, fast global travel: all these are, bit by bit, blurring national distinctions. Slick advertising images such as the "United Colours of Benetton" portray children (in other words, the future) as one happy, multicultural yet homogeneous family.

This weekend, two music festivals in Britain will celebrate, in contrasting ways, the new accessibility and mobility of the world's musicians. For its annual summer festival, WOMAD (the World Of Music And Dance) has assembled an eclectic array of acts, including Zaire's Papa Wemba, Algeria's Cheb Khaled, Senegal's Baaba Maal and Canada's Dream Warriors.

Meanwhile, in the South Bank Centre in London, the "Colour of Europe" festival attempts to portray the "creative diversity" of European music as a diversity represented by European musicians and dancers, whose origins lie in Africa, the Caribbean, Indonesia, Turkey, India, China

and Surinam. The South Bank festival, according to Helen Dennison, its organiser, will "make a picture of what Europe looks like now".

Hotly contested issues of cultural and national identity will intensify in 1992, when Europe takes on its new shape. How will a West African singer, living in Paris, present herself? As a French citizen with loyalty to African culture? As an African performer, a black European or simply a musician of the world? When her children join heavy-metal bands, or become rappers, will she accept the hybridisation of African and Euro-American music, or will she lament the passing of her tradition?

Both festivals feature west African singers. On Thursday, "Colour of Europe" opens with Kasse Mada, from Mali, while WOMAD's Sunday will end with the appearance of an exciting Senegalese singer named Baaba Maal.

There is a paradoxical element to this. Representing the Parisian music scene as one of

the new Europeans, Kasse Mada is profoundly rooted in an African ancestral tradition, able to trace his family back to the 13th century, reluctant to speak French and anxious to preserve the traditional aspect of his music. Baaba Maal, on the other hand, is a fluent French and English speaker, a progressive intellectual who attended the Paris Conservatoire, open to influences from African folk to European chamber music. He addresses his multi-lingual countrymen in a song called "Agouyadji", telling them, "Wherever we come from, we are all Senegalese." Clearly, the problems of identity are too complex to be reduced to marketing terms, too emotional to be swept aside by the notion of a European community.

The marketing of world music is admirable in giving non-European/American musicians access to the international music industry, but cannot hope to address such issues in depth. "What black artists have to struggle against all the time," says Dennison, "is being put into an exotic context and having no influence over how they are presented." For many, world music has been a flight from their own culture. Unwilling to follow the dizzying changes in rock and pop, they have found freshness and solace, even moral certainties, in the music of the rest of the world.

Attacking the folkloric presentation of some music as "neo-colonial emporium art", Dennison describes such concerts and festivals as being, "very close to how things used to be collected for museums". "Colour of Europe" also has the trappings of a cultural

bazaar, with its outdoor carnival parade and its daily menus of exotic food on the terraces.

But at least this festival is concentrating on specific urban developments in world music. Even though the WOMAD festival have pioneered recognition of great musicians such as Youssou N'Dour or Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan—who may often sing about harsh realities outside the experience of the audience—the final impression is that all differences are reduced to the ambience of a global shopping-mall.

Real difficulties bubble under the surface. While she was in Paris, researching for "Colour of Europe" in January, Dennison found her plans to include Arab musicians thrown into confusion by the Gulf War. French concerts of Algerian *rai* music were banned, and a pro-Saddam song was

recorded by a north-African singer based in Paris.

The term "worldbeat" implies a rhythm to which we all dance, a song in which we all participate. The discriminations experienced by Europe's migrant communities are less utopian. White European music-lovers, who may once have regarded African music as an exotic flavour, must now surely adopt a more realistic approach: this is my new neighbour, and the music is now my culture too.

Such realisations can be painful. Do world music festivals help to reconcile Europeans to this culturally shifting world? That is surely what they must now do, otherwise non-European and non-American musicians will continue to be ghettoised as an exotic, escapist sideshow.

● *Colour of Europe*. From Thursday to Sunday, South Bank Centre, London SE1 (071-928 8800).
● *WOMAD Festival '91*. From Friday to Sunday, Riverside Leisure Centre, Reading, Berkshire (0225 744044).

CLASSICAL MUSIC: BLISS CENTENARY

To be young was very heaven

Sir Arthur Bliss was never able completely to discard the *enfant terrible* tag he acquired in his youth. In his later work, in which he adopted a Romantic stance, it often seems that the emotions are veiled with a touch of self-consciousness. But Britain needed figures such as Bliss—and the young Walton—in the Twenties, when Satie and Les Six were the dazzling anarchists of Paris. This centenary tribute, a series of three excellently played South Bank concerts by the Nash Ensemble (often conducted by their pianist, Ian Brown), showed off those refreshingly

irreverent pieces in some cleverly contrasted contexts.

Among them were the notorious *Rout* of 1920, for a soprano who sings nonsense syllables which correspond to the scraps of singing you might catch in some chaotic carnival, and *Madam Noy*, a setting from the same year of a version of "Old Mother Hubbard", both rather coolly sung by Sarah Leonard, deputising late in the day, in the first concert. Typically, these works are brilliantly scored for small chamber groups, tinged in the case of *Rout* with an unmistakable touch of jazz.

The offbeat, Cubist distor-

tions of Stravinsky's *Rag-time* (1918) made an apt introduction to them, and to the tickling *Conversations* (also 1920) for mixed quintet, which sets verbal situations, such as a committee meeting, a ballroom dance and a tube carriage.

The vocal pieces in the second concert had an altogether more serious intent. The *Rhapsody* for wordless soprano and tenor (Joan Rodgers and Adrian Thompson) and septet of flute, cor anglais and strings yet again dates from 1920, but in this single, impassioned movement Bliss comes close to setting his emotions free.

This was a ravishing performance. More concentrated, and more exquisite, were the two pieces which set poems by Li-Po, *The Women of Yueh* and *The Ballad of the Four Seasons*, both composed in America in 1923. Here Bliss was not far from the world of Ravel; nor, in a more fulsome

way, was Bax in his opulent *Nonet* of 1930, which began this concert.

Curiously, and extravagantly, it ended with a semi-staged performance of Holst's chamber opera *Savitri*, whose mystic beauties seemed misplaced here. Jean Rigby, as Savitri herself, sounded a touch out of sorts, though Thompson and David Wilson Johnson, as Satyavan and Death, both sang well. More appropriate, it seemed, were the companion works in the last concert to the *Viola Sonata* (1933), which, like the *Oboe Quintet* of 1927 so eloquently played by Gareth Hulse earlier in the series, is an accomplished, expansively romantic piece, though Roger Chimes's viola playing was sometimes a touch shaky. Ian Partridge gave a dark, smooth performance of Vaughan Williams's cycle *On Wenlock Edge* and the Nash a fine reading of Elgar's Piano Quintet.

STEPHEN PITTITT

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Banker caught in the red

Peter Millar on the murky connection between a spy and a high-street bank

Superficially it was a hum-drum affair: a bustle of embassy wives comparing notes on summer frocks at the highlight of a dull diplomatic round. For Moscow's foreign community, spilling out of the sugar merchant's baroque palace that serves as the British embassy into the gardens next to the tennis courts, the Queen's official birthday party was usually little more than an exchange of pleasantries over gin and tonics. Excitement was restricted to identifying the token candidate Politburo member holding court over a stiff vodka in the corner. Even in the dying days of the Cold War, when John le Carré wrote the manuals and Mikhail Gorbachev was still a dark horse, few would have believed a KGB death threat hung over the head of the nervous man from the Midland Bank.

Yet two days later, on June 17, 1983, Dennis Skinner, aged 54, a quiet, sober man with a Russian wife, met the doom he himself had prophesied. His body was found 11 stories below the window of his flat in the block he shared with hundreds of other foreigners on Leninsky Prospekt. The British embassy security men and the KGB immediately agreed that it was either an accident or suicide.

But gossip swept through Moscow's expatriate community, because Mr Skinner had been found with his tracksuit top pulled over his head. There was also the question of his apparent presence: only a few days before the embassy garden party he had run in panic to a neighbour, Mrs Valerie Cane, claiming that he would be arrested by the KGB and that his life was at risk.

The reason, he said, was that he had evidence of a traitor within the British embassy. The inquest in Croydon, heard much confusing evidence, but was deflected from much more. At one stage the coroner had to overrule the counsel for the Crown when he accused her of going beyond the scope of her enquiry. The verdict of "unlawful killing" left more questions than it answered. The opinion of the Moscow expatriate community was clear: the man from the listening bank had done more than just listen.

Now an enquiry by *The Financial Times* into the Midland's troubled finances has revealed that for years the bank operated secret links with British security services. Midland International Trade Services and the related Defence Equipment Finance Department were run by a team of men with little or no experience of banking, but almost all with a background in intelligence.

The evidence is murky, but what has emerged is that for the better part of a decade the top echelons of the bank were permeated by an "intelligence culture" reaching from Lord Armstrong of Sanderstead, the former head of the civil service

who was responsible for reorganising M15 during the war and was chairman of the Midland from 1975 to 1980, to Sir John Cuckey, another former M15 man, who was appointed a non-executive director of the Midland around the time of Skinner's appointment to Moscow. These revelations prove the clearest — if still oblique — link between Skinner and the British secret service, since the flurry of official attempts to deny any connection.

It is accepted that the dead banker had contacts with the KGB. This is not unusual. Any foreigner working in Moscow expects to come under a certain amount of surveillance by both sides. The atmosphere breeds paranoia: an inclination to discuss anything of importance in the open air, jokey references to "third parties" on the telephone. But Skinner's Russian-born wife, Lyudmila, who became a naturalised British citizen, gave evidence at the inquest that he talked of meeting KGB contacts known as "Boris" and "Alex".

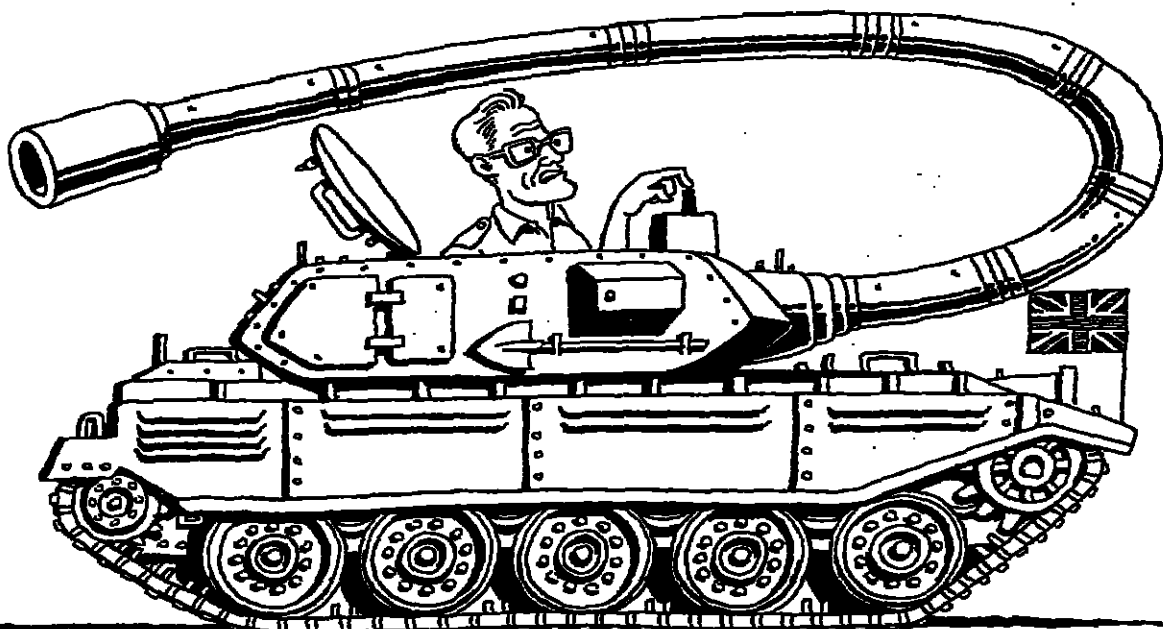
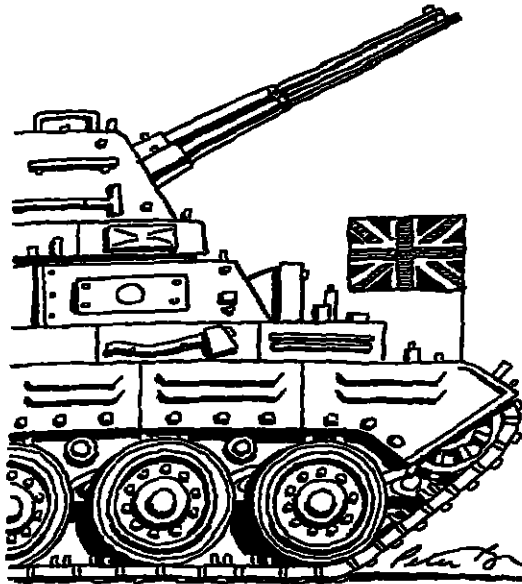
And what of Skinner's claim that there was a mole in the British embassy? It is, on the face of it, a serious allegation at least. The British embassy appeared not to take Skinner seriously at the time: following the Queen's birthday party he was interviewed by a member of the embassy's security staff and taken to spend the night at the flat of a junior diplomat, but the next day was encouraged to go back to his own apartment. In 48 hours he was dead.

The junior diplomat who provided Skinner with accommodation that night was subsequently posted to Rangoon, though he has since returned to London as a ministerial speech writer. One man who might have been able to shed more light on the affair is John Burnett, the embassy security officer who interviewed Skinner and gave extensive evidence at the inquest. But he was recalled from Moscow and disappeared from the Foreign Office's diplomatic lists. Further details of his career are not available.

The Skinner affair marked the beginning of a fractured period in Anglo-Soviet relations spanning the final, icy stage of the Cold War. In April 1985, less than a year after his death, London and Moscow began a series of tit-for-tat espionage allegations culminating in mass expulsions in September apparently linked to the escape of Oleg Gordievsky, Britain's mole in the KGB.

Among those expelled in this cynical game of tit-for-tat were innocent businessmen and journalists, many of whom suffered career or personal setbacks as a result. We all know that secret services infiltrate civilian organisations, but those who conspire with the spooks, as the men at the Midland appear to have done, suffer more than their own reputations.

In defence of the realm?



Internal squabbles over the regimental system are distracting the generals from our true defence needs, says Michael Howard

foreseeable. No one predicted either the Falklands or the Gulf emergencies. Even if they had been foreseen, it would hardly have been practicable to keep on hand forces specially tailored to deal with them. As military planners know only too well, one only has to visualise any specific scenario to ensure that it will never happen. The only safe rule is to expect the unexpected.

Unfortunately it is not possible to quantify what one needs to meet the unexpected. We have always to do the best with what we have got, and what we have got is, inevitably, what we can afford. Defence policy may not be re-

source-driven, but it is inevitably resource-constrained. Obviously the more we can afford, the better. But apart from such peculiar commitments as the Falklands or Belize, which will always have to be handled *ad hoc*, our overseas operations will always be undertaken, as they were in the Gulf, as part of a coalition. The greater our contribution to that coalition, the larger will be the political dividends, and, in the Middle East, other kinds of dividends as well.

It could plausibly be argued that, as with minor princes of the 18th century, Britain's armed forces are now our most profitable

exports, and gain for us an international status that we can no longer achieve in any other way. Nevertheless the size of the forces we can commit must be determined by the economy as a whole. This will ensure that they can never be very large. All the more important, then, that they should be very good.

This brings us to the traditionalists. Mr King's proposals to shrink or amalgamate regiments have aroused exactly the same rage among retired generals and Tory backbenchers as greeted every military reformer from Cardwell through Haldane to Healey. The regimental system is certainly a

very agreeable way of soldiering, but it is emphatically not, as some of its defenders claim, the admiration of the world. Britain's continental neighbours regard it as an amusing archaism, and most of them find an equally effective focus for their loyalties in the division. Still, it is the way we have always managed things, and most people would agree that its administrative inconveniences are outweighed by its positive contributions to morale. But the cost of preserving the regimental system has to be continual adaptation.

Regiments raised to deal with specific emergencies, as most of them were, have no prescriptive right to exist for ever. We saw in the second world war that newly-formed units could perform quite as well as those encrusted by illustrious tradition. Defence is far too important to be treated as a branch of the heritage industry. Intelligent serving soldiers know this very well, and find the clamour of the bowler-batted brigade embarrassing rather than helpful. What worries them, quite properly, are not cap-badges but the overall size of the force in which they are required to serve.

So that brings us back to my original point. We need forces strong enough to make a substantial contribution to Nato and keep the peace in Northern Ireland, but beyond that our contributions will be limited to what we can afford. What the cabinet must bear in mind, however, is that, as Britain's contribution to communal military enterprises shrinks, so will our political influence with our allies. If our reputation and consequent capacity to influence events at present stands high in the Middle East and in Washington, it is the direct result of the performance of British forces in the Gulf war. The same will apply to any future enterprise in which we take part, whether under the auspices of the United Nations, Nato or even the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Frederick the Great once said that diplomacy without arms is like music without instruments. As the ruler of a poor country, he knew what he was talking about. Through skilful use of his armies, he made Prussia a great European power. Prussia may not be a good example to follow. Nonetheless, we may expect that the strongest opposition to the defence cuts in the cabinet will come from Mr Douglas Hurd.

Sir Michael Howard is professor of modern history at Yale University.



The ability of the British army to respond to unexpected emergencies such as Belize, the Falklands or the Gulf, will be determined by ten men on the Army Board next Monday, writes Michael Evans. Ever since the defence ministry began its "options for change" review in November 1989, the shape and size of Britain's army has been the principal issue at stake.

The ten will decide whether to approve a cut in the number of infantry battalions from 55 to 36, and which regiments will be disbanded or amalgamated. There is still an argument raging inside the ministry over whether every commitment can be

fulfilled with 116,000 soldiers rather than 156,000, and 19 fewer infantry battalions. This has become even more sensitive than the fate of individual regiments.

The main role of the reduced army has already been decided, following the announcement that Britain would lead a Nato rapid reaction force as part of Europe's military restructuring. A large division of 23,000 British soldiers, less than half the size of the present British Army of the Rhine, will stay in Germany. The Army Board will approve the detailed structure of the army and examine the implications for equipment, training and logistics.

...and moreover

PETER BARNARD

Newspapers show a proper interest in the weather because it is one of the subjects their readers talk about. But the internal meteorology of newspapers — as people leave under clouds or working for *The Sun* (or both) — is most evident during a few weeks at a particular time of year. This time of year, readers have become familiar with this phenomenon, which is called the silly season.

This year the media is nervous about it, being a touch rusty because of the lack of a silly season last year. Countless organisations with a bit of PR savvy fight for newspaper space in July and August. Last year a very odd mob called the Ba'ath party scooped the lot of them.

You would think that civilised politicians would have learned from this, but sadly they are as prone to publicity (if not to disclosure) as the acrobatic figure who carried in his wallet a card saying: "In case of heart attack, call a press conference". Recently there appeared in newspapers the dread news that the government would be on full alert through the summer, as would the Labour party.

Whitehall media folk who think they know what they are about are gung-ho to play up with "stories" and in Walworth Road, Labour is de-cocking the photographers so that we shall not want for policy documents. Ministers have been ordered not to take more than two weeks holiday, the stupid injunction which only deprives the tabloids of a headline: "Heseltine: where is he?" Almost none of the state-

ments, documents, initiatives and other forms of movement disguised as progress with which we are being bombarded has the slightest use in the silly season. Just as people want a certain type of newspaper on Christmas Eve, full of daft pictures of Santas and shoppers and two-acre crossword and 50 ways to avoid a hangover, they want a certain type of story now.

Newspapers identify the correct emotion for their readers, as Tom Wolfe said. In summer, the correct emotion is a chorle. The last thing we want is an employment initiative. We want "Howard: where is he?" If governments had their wits about them they would ensure that these stories dribbled out at the proper time. Much like rain in Riyadh, two clouds on the same day is a waste of a cloud. Mismanagement has to be properly managed.

They need a Whereishe? rota. Pin one of those holiday planners up on the wall and write a list of names down the left hand side. Then choose, say, the week in August when a rotten inflation figure is expected. Send the Chancellor of the Exchequer up the Amazon without a telephone. Issue the inflation figure and instead of a lot of teeth-sucking headlines about how it has not fallen far enough, you get "Lamont: where is he?"

The belief that the British want politicians *in situ* all year round dates back to the winter of discontent, when Jim Callaghan returned from Guadeloupe in January 1979 looking as tanned as a cello. The photographs of

him at Heathrow appeared under headlines that said: "What Crisis?" This is held to have lost Labour the 1979 election.

Complete misreading. The fact was that Callaghan had a face like a nut, in the winter. As with making love in the afternoon, this is unforgivable. And just as people were warming to the presence of a thumping emergency that was good for a couple of minutes' animated conversation while the commercials were on, they realised that a prime minister had turned up with a policy initiative.

Worse, he would almost certainly make an unscheduled appearance on television to tell them what it was, thus rendering the *Radio Times* a useless guide to setting the video recorder. Worse still for Callaghan, people would react to his reappearance the way they do to unexpectedly seeing a driver who cut them up a week earlier in an incident they would otherwise have forgotten. That's him! There he is!

Politicians fascinate me, not least because they think we want politics all day every day. What is this obsession with being seen to be all present and correct? Two summers ago there was a panic in Downing Street when secretaries of state, ministers of state, third assistant acting deputies and the departmental cat were all discovered on the beach at the same time.

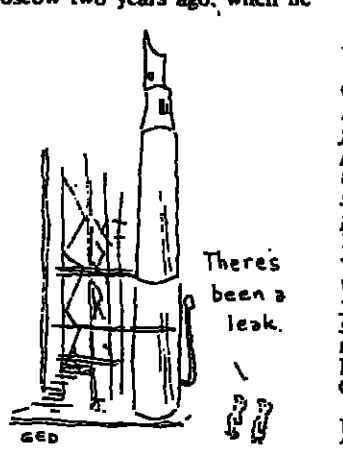
Of course all Margaret Thatcher had a few days in north Cornwall. She was a workaholic. You never saw a headline saying, "Thatcher: where is she?" Until now.

Do they take cartridges?

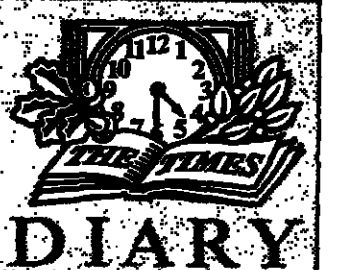
Presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush, who look set to sign the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks treaty, probably at a Moscow summit in September, could do so with pens symbolically made from the metal of decommissioned Soviet and American nuclear missiles.

Known as "world memorial pens", and manufactured by Parker, they will be unveiled at Harrods on Friday in the presence of a three-star Soviet colonel who commanded an SS20 regiment, and a senior American air attaché. They will also be sold around the world in aid of Lord Cheshire's Memorial Fund for Disaster Relief.

Cheshire hit on the idea in Moscow two years ago, when he



discussed setting up the Soviet Union's first Leonard Cheshire home. Aware that the Soviets had no money to support the memorial fund, which he launched in 1989 with a pop concert in Berlin, Cheshire asked for assistance in kind. The Kremlin suggested the metal and the Americans, not



wishing to be outdone, came up with a similar offer. As a result, 11 tons of casing from Soviet SS20 and American Pershing missiles, which are being scrapped under the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces treaty were flown into Britain in an RAF convoy.

Available in blue, black or maroon and as both a ballpoint and a fountain pen, they will sell at between £35 and £185. The first two fountain pens, however, have been reserved for presentation to the superpower leaders.

The Sainsbury wing at the National Gallery today celebrates its first week open to the public. One perhaps unexpected success has been the Micro gallery, with its space age computer graphics depicting the new wing's finest works. The animations and visual games were in great demand over the first weekend, particularly with the young, and long queues over the school holidays look certain. Next: the Nintendo version of Botticelli's Mars and Venus or Uccello's St George and the Dragon?

Last words

An unpublished and unfinished story by Graham Greene, written in his own hand, is to be auctioned for charity tomorrow at Sotheby's. The author donated the story shortly before his death in April to a charity for exiled South African students in Britain. The untitled fragment,

which runs to just three pages, begins: "What is it that has induced me to write this short piece in memory of the family of Frederick Jones? The reason was certainly not his violent death which for a week so attracted the press."

Norman Sherry, Greene's biographer, says: "I would guess that if it was written soon before he died, Greene might well have been writing about himself. He was still on the ball right up to his death." It is estimated that the manuscript will fetch between £500-£600. And Peter Beal, of Sotheby's manuscript department, says: "The story is written in Greene's crabby handwriting, and there are many revisions. You really can see the whole creative process."

But Max Reinhardt, Greene's friend and publisher, who is planning to publish a posthumous book of Greene's dreams, called *A World of My Own*, on which the author was working when he died, says of the story: "I know nothing about it."

Panel decision

More than two years after his death, the memorial to Lord Olivier in Westminster Abbey is finally to be unveiled in September, near the memorial to his theatrical predecessor, David Garrick. Olivier will join Garrick and Sir Henry Irving, the only two other actors in Poets' Corner. His direct neighbours will be Handel and Sheridan, the playwright, Olivier's contemporaries, Sybil Thorndike and Noel Coward, have places in the abbey's less prestigious south choir aisle.

The memorial was due to have been unveiled last summer but Michael Mayne, dean of the abbey, says: "It has been a bit of a business because once the family decided on a stonemason a panel, which meets only three times a year, had to consider the design. When the stone is there for eternity you want to get it right."

Stage left

Not quite the high-profile, three-day visit to Moscow that Neil Kinnock had in mind, but after an 18-month wait he will finally meet President Gorbachev over coffee and biscuits at the Soviet embassy on Friday. Kinnock has been in the queue to see Gorbachev since he called off his visit to Britain at short notice in January 1990. At the time of the cancellation, Kinnock's office said a new visit was being arranged "at a mutually convenient date within the next few months". The rest was silence.

With John Major stealing the headlines Kinnock should appreciate his audience, however brief, as Gorbachev is the only world leader he is due to see. "He is not meeting any of the G7 leaders because it is not the convention," says a spokesman.

Such constraints, however, are not hampering Mrs Thatcher, for whom this must be a difficult time as she observes others strut the stage on which she had planned to star. Not only, like Kinnock, is she having talks with Gorbachev, but she saw Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese prime minister, on Sunday, and is also expected to meet President Bush.

Tories disturbed by Lord King's announcement yesterday that BA was stopping its annual donation to party funds can rest easy. King, who received his peerage from a Tory government, remains a firm personal supporter. Although he threatened the unlikely spectacle of BA giving money to Labour instead, King himself remains vice-chairman of Rutland and Melton Conservative association. Only three weeks ago he hosted a £150-a-head garden party at his country home, raising £2,000 in small in comparison with a BA donation, but nonetheless graciously received by the local association.

Handwritten signature or mark.



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July 16.

Facing up to the factors of recession

From a boom period in the Eighties the factoring industry today is struggling, but the good times are expected to return.

Neil Bennett looks at the reasons

Most people believe there is nothing a factoring company likes more than a deep recession. The owners of small businesses are supposed to flock to the factor's door when sales are falling, their bank has refused them a further loan, and their creditors will not pay up. The factor can then squeeze every last pound of security and usurious per cent of interest out of his unfortunate customer.

The reality is very different. Factoring, which had an explosive growth throughout the Eighties, is now struggling under the weight of company receiverships, bad debts and fraud.

The fall in economic activity, and a drop in the number of suitable new customers, look likely to restrict the industry's growth to single figures for the first time in a decade.

In factoring, fees vary with the level of service, from 0.2 per cent of turnover for invoice discounting to 2.5 per cent for non-recourse factoring in a high-risk situation. The service is particularly useful to small and fast-growing companies whose banks will not increase their loans to cover a rise in their trading activity.

The creation of so many small companies after the last recession, and the inability of traditional bank lending to keep pace with fast-growing business, created a gap in the finance market that factoring companies filled. The industry's turnover grew from £3.8 billion in 1984 to £13.8 billion last year.

Factors are leaders of last resort, and many companies turn to them when they are in trouble. They are unlikely to receive a warm welcome.

"Factoring is basically a service for growing businesses," says Alan Hughes, the chief executive of Griffin Factors. "If there is a problem with the company, factoring will only accelerate the demise. There is less competition at the moment for less creditworthy business."

If a company starts to borrow on a dwindling invoice book, it will reach a debt crisis far sooner than if it remains within the constraints of its bank facilities.

As a result, the main British factors are now turning away many companies that have been approaching them, after they explain the full implications of the service. Griffin, a subsidiary of Midland Bank, estimates that its enquiries have doubled this year, but the number of new clients has fallen by a tenth.

All factors are suffering from bad debts, which will depress or even wipe out their profits this year. In 1990 the industry's bad debts doubled to £11.1 million. This year, they could double again.

Most of the bad debts are in non-recourse factoring. In normal times, a company calculates that one invoice in a thousand will become a bad debt. The figure is now running at five times that rate.

The rate of bad debts reached its peak last February, and has not improved significantly. The factors have all been hit by the largest, most



public failures, as companies such as Lowndes Queensway and Coloroll collapsed owing money to hundreds of suppliers.

Bad debts are being increased by a rise in fraud. The classic fraud in factoring occurs when a client uses an invoice discounting service, then encounters financial problems. A businessman may try to solve them

by issuing an invoice to the factor on uncompleted work.

He might then be tempted to write an invoice for work where he has not even received an order. The factor has no idea that these are false invoices as he plays no part in collecting the debt. "Eventually a businessman can be in the business of manufacturing invoices, not

goods," Mr Hughes says. The situation falls apart when the company cannot repay the factor's loans, and the bogus invoices are uncovered.

Once the recession ends and profits recover, all the factoring companies are expecting renewed competition combined with pressure on fees. In an effort to reduce costs, factors are now introducing sophisticated technology to handle the flow of invoices and payments.

Factors are already installing on-line systems in the offices of their larger customers. These transmit details of invoices to the factor's computer automatically so that it can credit the company's bank account. They also give the customer a full breakdown of their sales ledger and cash position.

The bad debts and the fall in the number of new customers may cut the growth in industry turnover to 5 per cent this year. However, most companies are already looking forward to economic recovery.

Alternative to the high street banks

Independent companies claim to avoid clashes, Derek Harris writes

Two-thirds of the dozen members of the Association of British Factors and Discounters are factoring firms of the high street banks, but clients in search of an independent factor still have a substantial alternative.

Four association members that are independent of high street banks are Trade Indemnity-Heller Commercial Finance (with annual trading of £671 million), UCB Invoice Discounting (£417 million), Security Pacific Business Finance Europe (£270 million) and Century Factors (£167 million).

This week, the California-based parent of Security Pacific struck a conditional deal for the takeover of its British-based subsidiary by Close Brothers, the merchant banking group of which Century Factors is part.

Hill Samuel Commercial Finance is part of TSB, but it operates with considerable autonomy, offering a wider spread of services than some factoring bank subsidiaries.

Even with the non-bank factors there are some remoter bank connections, such as Fuji Bank's ownership of the Heller side of the TIH business.

However, the key difference arises from the tendency for a bank to be meeting a client's banking needs while the bank's factoring subsidiary provides the same client with a factoring service. Those factors with a bank parent

may be getting three-quarters or more of leads to new customers from the bank.

The independents tend to feel this is spoon-feeding and certainly the lack of this

advantage helps to give a competitive edge to the independent operations. The independents also argue that a bank and its factoring subsidiary might together easily reach a common view about a client's affairs that could turn out to be less supportive than if an independent was involved.

John Yates, the sales director at Century Factors, says: "It is a question of whether a business wants all its eggs in one basket. Our clients usually need to have a bank behind them, but if the bank manager starts feeling uneasy about prospects, we, as an independent factor, might still go in with stronger support rather than also looking to withdraw."

TIH gives the example of a client business which approached its bank for a £20,000 increase in an existing £30,000 overdraft. David Moore, a client of TIH, says: "It was a question of whether a business wants all its eggs in one basket. Our clients usually need to have a bank behind them, but if the bank manager starts feeling uneasy about prospects, we, as an independent factor, might still go in with stronger support rather than also looking to withdraw."

TIH made a small loss on a turnover of £500,000 and wanted to gear up sales in a growth market as the way to profits. Their bank, however, was keen to reduce its exposure and the pair turned to TIH.

Factoring support brought in £60,000 and it proved possible almost to double turnover in the second year. Now, still with its TIH link, it has reached £2.5 million.

Mr Moore says: "TIH are not breathing down our necks whenever business takes a temporary turn for the worse." He reckons they have business peace of mind at reasonable rates.



David Moore: "peace of mind"

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Speed provides a cutting edge

New strategies are being undertaken to attract customers to the industry

Despite years of double digit growth, competition has remained intense among the main businesses in the factoring industry. As the recession begins to recede, many of the companies are preparing for new marketing offensives and systems investment to capture a larger proportion of the market (Neil Bennett writes).

Factoring is dominated by the big four clearing banks, which control almost three-quarters of the industry. This is hardly surprising, as most small companies take advice from their traditional bank manager when they are looking for a factor, and the banks naturally recommend their in-house subsidiary.

The industry leader in 1990, for the second year running, was International Factors, owned by Lloyds Bank. International kept its lead with a business volume of £2.75 billion, or almost a fifth of the

entire market. International overtook Lombard NatWest Commercial Services, the long-time market leader, in the late Eighties by concentrating on its marketing and sales force. International's achievement is even more remarkable as its parent bank has far fewer small business accounts than NatWest, so it had to rely on winning business from outside the group.

Barclays Commercial Services, owned by Britain's largest bank, surprisingly trails far behind its rivals. International is run by Tom Hutson, who has worked in the industry for 30 years. International, like its rivals, has been hit by rising bad debts. "I think I am going to be profitable this year," he says, "but our shareholders

may think our return on capital is less than adequate." Lombard NatWest attributed its second place to specialisation in small businesses. Lombard will take on factoring customers with sales of only £75,000, compared with the minimum turnover of £100,000 that its competitors demand. "The efficiency of our systems means we can offer the service to these businesses," says Paul Gee, sales and marketing director.

In January, Lombard opened a regional service centre in Leeds to offer a more convenient contact for its clients in the north of England. By October it should handle a third of the group's business volume. Although International has the largest turnover, Griffin Factors, owned

by Midland, is the most profitable, making almost £11 million last year, thanks to a central management charge, the same profit as the entire Midland Group.

Griffin, like its rivals, offers a combination of invoice discounting and non-recourse factoring. Griffin, too, is investing heavily in technology to speed up the movement of invoices and payments to and from its clients.

The success of all the factors' systems is shown in the speed with which factored debts are settled. Normal company invoices are currently being paid in an average of 80 days, a figure that has risen significantly during the recession.

Alan Hughes, Griffin's chief executive, says the delay in paying factored debts has risen by only a day during the recession, and are now settled almost 21 days faster than the national average.

Company	Shareholders (per cent)	Vol. of bus. (£m)
International Factors	Lloyds Bank (100)	2,751
Lombard NatWest Commercial Services	NatWest Bank Group (100)	2,486
Griffin Factors	Midland Bank (100)	2,140
Alex Lawrie Factors	Lloyds Bank (100)	1,652
Barclays Commercial Services	Barclays Bank (100)	1,130
Kellock	Bank of Scotland (85) Management (5)	985
Hill Samuel Commercial Finance	Hill Samuel Bank (100)	820
Trade Indemnity-Heller Commercial Finance	Trade Indemnity Group (50) Heller Europe (50) (ultimately owned by Fuji Bank)	671
UCB Invoice Discounting	UCB Group (100)	417
RoyScot Factors	Royal Bank of Scotland (100)	357
Security Pacific Business Finance (Europe)	Sec. Pac. Euro-Fin. Inc. (100)	270
Century Ltd	Close Bros (85) Management (5)	167

The above are members of the Association of British Factors and Discounters

Survey shows Britain 'in severe recession'

Ten-year high for business failures as interest bites

Full-scale recession signalled in CBI survey

Business failures

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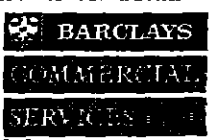
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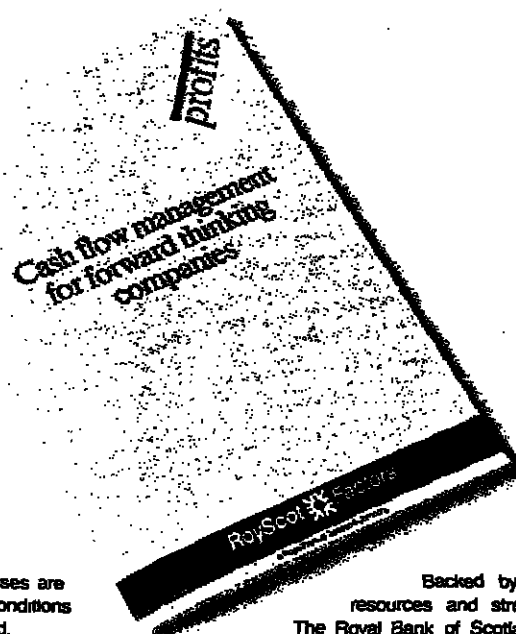
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Giant awakes: China is seeking advice on factoring to help its industry, from paint-making with marble (left) to making universal joints (right)

Global market value trebles

The world is at the feet of the factoring companies as the former Soviet bloc countries and the developing world show an interest in the business. Derek Harris reports

The value of the world factoring market has trebled in the past five years. In 1990 the business was worth \$244 billion (£150 billion). The number of factoring companies operating worldwide has risen to more than 500 from 300 in 1985.

The sector has grown consistently. The high point came in 1987 when business increased by a third. In 1988 the rate of growth fell to 15 per cent but increased to 18 per cent in 1989. Last year saw a 13 per cent rise.

Italian companies are the biggest users of factoring. Transactions passing through factors' hands amounted to nearly \$71.3 billion (£44.5 billion) last year. The industry has been helped by the Italian banks' reluctance to help to fund long-term credit.

Business in the United States amounts to \$49 billion. In the US, historically the home of factoring with its early use in the cotton trade, companies still largely use factoring only in the textiles and clothing trades, although more recently it has been penetrating sectors such as house furnishings and footwear.

Britain had the third largest volume at just over \$29 billion while Japan had \$14.8 billion worth of factoring business. France at \$14.3 billion and Germany at \$10.3 billion were close behind.

This picture of world factoring is painted in the latest analysis from Factors Chain International (FCI), the Amsterdam-based international network of factoring companies. Its members account for 40 per cent of world factoring business. New areas of opportunity are starting to

open up in central and Eastern Europe and other countries including China.

The constraining element in some of the former Soviet economic bloc countries is that their accounting and other financial systems have still to be developed to the point at which factors can make realistic judgments of the quality of businesses.

Nevertheless, factoring is already developing in Czechoslovakia and Hungary. In both these countries business reached \$130 million last year.

Jeroen Kohnstamm, FCI's director general, says: "We are very positive and optimistic about Czechoslovakia and Hungary."

FCI's single Czech member is now a separately incorporated factor, and is dealing with a growing demand for domestic factoring as newly launched private sector companies meet cash flow problems.

In Britain, the healthy growth in the domestic market has drawn attention away from factoring services for export sales, which account

for only a small part of the sector's total volume. However, last year international factoring by the members of the Association of British Factors and Discounters (ABFD) grew by 5.5 per cent to £619 million worth of business. This accounted for 4.5 per cent of all factoring business. Worldwide, the export of factoring last year was worth about £8.4 billion.

Factoring can encourage exporters to compete vigorously in foreign markets, says Alan Hughes, the chief executive of Griffin Factors and chairman-elect of the ABFD.

It can be especially helpful to smaller and medium-sized businesses entering exporting for the first time because an experienced factor can offer wide-ranging advice on foreign markets, from local trading terms to arranging debt collections, while offering services such as exchange risk cover.

The smaller companies find it particularly valuable to be able to take up, through a factor, lines of credit in different currencies, picking those whose interest rates are low.

Mr Hughes says: "Factoring offers the professional and worthwhile help that exporters need. The single European market will bring real opportunities to the small and medium-sized business, which perhaps have not been contemplated previously."

"In the past, selling goods

Country	Domestic business (\$million)	Global business (\$million)	Total (\$million)	Factoring companies (number)
Italy	70,000	1,280	71,280	80
United States	48,212	800	49,012	17
UK	28,040	1,194	29,234	34
Japan	14,387	459	14,846	43
France	13,325	1,000	14,325	17
Germany	7,885	2,578	10,463	14
Netherlands	7,000	3,000	10,000	8
Mexico	7,200	40	7,240	70
Sweden	5,171	195	5,366	15
Finland	4,820	110	5,030	5

Source: FCI (Factors Chain International)



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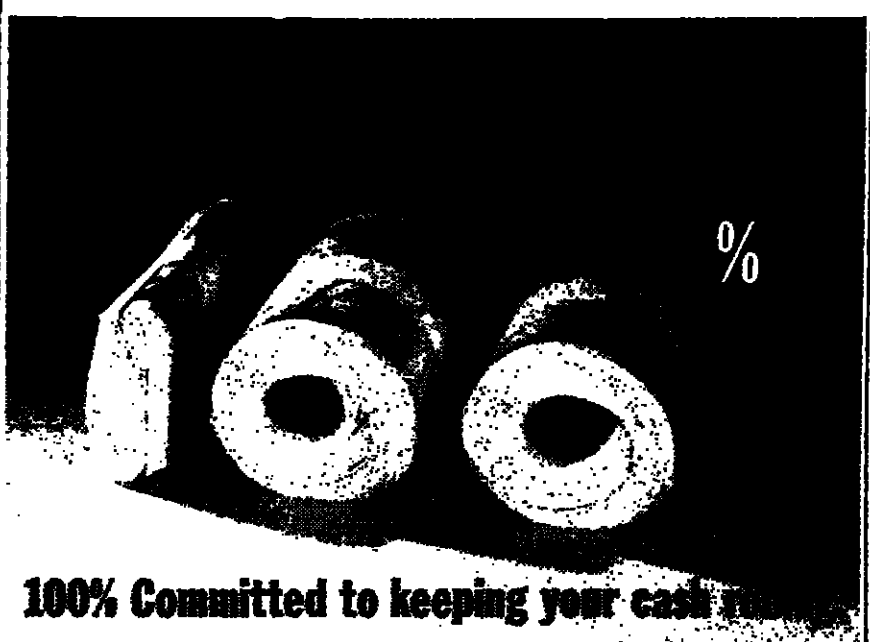
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Glimpse of Brooklyn teeth

MARILYN KENWILL



Performance of the evening: Anna Massey (centre), with Toby Whitworth (left) and William Gaminara

THEATRE
Broadway Bound
Greenwich

WHEN we British last met Neil Simon's Eugene Jerome, he was a spotty, baseball-obsessed 15-year-old, the protagonist and narrator of *Brooklyn Bound*. Since then, he has been presumably put in an appearance in *Biloxi Blues*, a play yet to make the crossing from New York to London. But now here he is in the third part of Simon's semi-demi-autobiographical trilogy, in his early or mid-twenties, and in the process of becoming remarkably similar to the celebrated playwright and jester in his professional prime. Jerome, like Neil Simon, is Broadway bound.

The two accusations most commonly directed at Simon's work are that it is excessively dependent on one-liners, few of them arising naturally from character, and that it is a bit bland and soft-centred. *Broadway Bound*, perhaps the best thing he has yet written, goes some way towards answering both criticisms, the first in an amusingly sly way. Most of the play's wisecracks come from Eugene, and Eugene is what Americans call a smart-ass, a precocious boy fond of flummoxing his mother and grandfather with his sense of humour. With him, the one-liner is character.

But what of the second, more weighty complaint? Well, Simon still is not Alan Ayckbourn or Eduardo de Filippo, let alone the Strindberg of Flatbush Avenue. Nature does not exactly become red in tooth and claw when he writes about his Brooklyn family. However, there are times in *Broadway Bound* when it turns decidedly pinkish. Toby Whitworth's bright, callow Eugene and his elder brother, William Gaminara's peppy Stanley, may be successfully writing

sketches for the *Chubby Years Show*, but their parents' 35-year-old marriage is no fun at all.

In fact, it spends the evening moving from the dumps to the doldrums to the divorce courts. One moment, we are with the boys as they breezily swap gags in their bedroom. The next, their father is confiding to their mother that he has again been seeing the woman with whom he had an affair last year. While one generation is stretching its wings and preparing to leave the nest, another is in terminal disarray. It is the everlasting contrast between the hope, drive and callousness of the young

and the disillusion of their elders.

The result is certainly a less funny play than we have come to expect of Simon, but it is one with more than the usual amount of useful truth; and the acting in David Taylor's production, quietly rises to the emotional occasion. Gary Waldhorn's Jack Jerome leaves an impression of restlessness and trapped energy, like steam seeking a safety valve. Meanwhile, the eyes of Anna Massey's Kate seem to glitter, and the rest of her to bunch and clench: you can almost smell the sickness in her stomach.

Frank Middlemass potters amusingly through the part of her socialist

father, one of Simon's rather too lovable codgers, and Barbara Ferris makes a brief appearance as a sister still bewildered by her marriage into money and mink; but it is Massey who gives the performance of the evening. There is a wonderful moment when she relives the time when, as a girl, she danced a foxtrot at a local nightie with George Raft. The shoulders lift, the face relaxes, everything about her seems to straighten and shine. She has rarely, if ever, done anything better in what is by now a long, distinguished career.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

THEATRE
Le Nozze di Figaro
Royal College of Music

ONE or two little excesses very slightly spoil this production. The house lights irritatingly go only half up when Figaro sings his aria to the audience in Act IV, and the chorus's action is frozen just once too often. On the opening night, the audience also had to contend with a couple of greasiness in the costumes, a door that refused to stay closed, and a potted tree set inextricably on the steeply raked platform so that with a mere brush from a cloak it tumbled. But I cannot remember seeing any opera at the college set quite as attractively, produced quite as slickly, or sung and

acted with quite such spirited confidence. This *Figaro*—given, moreover, in London's finest small theatre—is a gem.

Ruairi Murchison's set design oozes style and ingenuity, the two angled, pastel-coloured walls enclosing Figaro's barber shop removed act by act to reveal other walls beyond and, ultimately, a distant vista of the Count's residence. In front of this, a two-piece sliding screen provides convenient doors through which to effect the sharp entrances and exits of Act I, and forms the backdrop for the negotiations and machinations, staged at a formal long table, of Act III. This is the only interruption to the physical expansion of a world beyond the claustrophobic confines of a class-ridden society, the opera's point of departure and its victim.

Jamie Hayes's production, mean-

while, strikes the perfect balance between the silly and the serious. Figaro's buffo elements, in particular, demand the finest tuning of movements, and this student cast executes gymnastics of facial expression and physical gesture with fluent confidence and excellent timing.

The serious set pieces are done with utter lack of self-consciousness, while recitative and aria, humour and anguish, flow into each other almost imperceptibly. That is the mark of some solid work on characterisation and context, and also a tribute to the perceptive motivation of the conductor, Michael Rosewell.

As for the singers, the RCM's students are sounding and looking far more mature than I remember. Mauro Buda's Figaro is big-voiced, ably matched, all bright eyes, here, most certainly, is a name for the

future. Richard Chew's appealingly devilish Count is complemented by Jill-Maria Marsden's strong Countess, a lovely and, again, strong voice spoilt only by a momentary loss of stamina, or confidence, in "Dove sono". Bjørn Hasle's beautifully acted and sung Susanna—for once not too girlish—was of the perfect scale and poise, while Naoko Noma, as Cherubino, conveyed the ardent confusions of male adolescence without resorting to the usual quasi-macho clichés. Katrina Makepeace-Lott (Marcellina), Graham Case (Bartolo), Philip Slane (Basilio) and Russell Hibbard (a camp, stammering Carzio) have slightly less well developed voices than the principals, but all made excellent contributions to this triumph of teamwork.

STEPHEN PETTIT

CLS/Daniel
Town Hall, Cheltenham

LAST Friday the world premiere of a suite from the ballet *Caroline Mathilde* introduced us to a Peter Maxwell Davies coming close to Prokofiev; on Monday his next orchestral piece, the *Ojai Festival Overture*, brought us no less unsettlingly up against Davies-Rossini.

This six-minute whistle is fizzing, bright and cheerful, and though Davies's programme note referred to entirely characteristic terms to "transformations and developments" which "explore the ambiguous tonal spaces between the opening C sharp minor and the final F sharp major", that was no preparation for a work in which tonalities are expressed with such perky clarity.

The piece is utterly conventional too in playing with themes defined by contrasts of speed and instrumentation: at once busy stuff for the violins and a singing time exchanged among woodwind soloists. A hint of Copland in the latter material may have been a

response to the commission, the Ojai Festival taking place in California, but the piece was written for the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. I kept expecting its high spirits to be scared by a crunching discord, rather as the bride foxtrots of *St Thomas Wake*, which we also heard on Friday, are startled up. That this did not happen added to the bizarre quality of the experience.

It was somewhat reassuring to move back to the long grey ruminations and sudden needling violences of Davies's Cello Concerto, played without stint of concentration, fine tone and thoughtful phrasing by Raphael Wallfisch. Belonging to Davies's "Strathclyde" series, this work is also a concerto for the chamber orchestra, and the first oboe added distinction, as also in the overture and in Haydn's "Miracle" Symphony.

The long programme, conducted with upright energy and dispatch by Paul Daniel, ended with Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto, where Arthur Pizarro created another miracle in the luminous tone and perfectly gauged rubato he brought to the slow movement.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Arts features, page 15

NEW RELEASES

ANDREI RUBLEV (12): Terrence's stirring history of an icon painter's life in medieval Russia, completed in 1966. Rencor (071-837 9402).

HENRY: PORTRAIT OF A SERIAL KILLER (12): Dostoyevskian, by-on-the-wall study of human depravity in Chicago. Director: John McNaughton. Cannon Pictures (071-830 0331) Sals (071-727 4043) Metro (071-427 0767).

HUDSON HAWK (12): Cat-burglar Bruce Willis gets drawn into a plan to conquer the world. Producers: Glenn Feldman and John McNaughton. Cannon Pictures (071-830 0331) Sals (071-727 4043) Metro (071-427 0767).

KILL ME AGAIN (12): Red Hot Chili Peppers' Bruce Willis gets drawn into a plan to conquer the world. Producers: Glenn Feldman and John McNaughton. Cannon Pictures (071-830 0331) Sals (071-727 4043) Metro (071-427 0767).

NOCE BLANCHE (12): Philosophical thriller for the discerning. Producers: Philippe de Broca and Jean-Claude Brisson. Cannon Pictures (071-830 0331) Sals (071-727 4043) Metro (071-427 0767).

THELMA & LOUISE (12): Dialect road movie with Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon heading through the American South-West. Directed by director Ridley Scott. Cannon Pictures (071-830 0331) Sals (071-727 4043) Metro (071-427 0767).

CITIZEN KANE (12): America's enthralling examination of the American dream. Directed by Orson Welles. Cannon Pictures (071-830 0331) Sals (071-727 4043) Metro (071-427 0767).

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BROADWAY BOUND: Sublime playing by Anna Massey in part three of Neil Simon's ongoing play. Greenwich Theatre, Cannon Rd, Greenwich SE10 8JL (071-837 4447). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, Sat 2.30pm.

THE BLACKBURN BUNNIE: Patrick Prior treats British audience to some rough local tales. Theatre Royal Stratford East, Garry Rafferty Square, E15 (071-830 0310). Mon-Sat, 8pm, 12.15pm.

THE CARETAKER: Donald Pleasence in Peter's classic comedy. Comedy. Pavilion Theatre, SW1 (071-837 1045). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 10pm, Sun, 7.45pm, Mon-Sat, 12.15pm.

CARMEN JONES: Classic production of the Hammer/BBC all-time musical, packed with pizzazz. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (071-837 7616). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, Mon-Sat, 12.15pm.

DANCING AT LUGHANASHA: Brian Friel's award-winning memory play set in 1950s Donegal. Phoenix, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-837 1045). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 10pm, Sun, 7.45pm, Mon-Sat, 12.15pm.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Juliet Stevenson, Michael Byrne, Bill Paterson superb in Cheek's political comedy. Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court, St Martin's Lane, SW1 (071-730 7475). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 12.15pm.

DICKENS' WOMEN: Spoken, skilful tour of the literary, the play and the geography by Helen Mirren. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-837 1122). Tue-Sat, 8pm, Mon, 4pm, Sun, 12.15pm.

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT: Jason Donovan sings a golden way for the theatre. British Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-837 1122). Tue-Sat, 8pm, Mon, 4pm, Sun, 12.15pm.

MADAME DE SADE: Yuko Mishima's witty comedy about a woman. British Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-837 1122). Tue-Sat, 8pm, Mon, 4pm, Sun, 12.15pm.

CHILTERNHAM FESTIVAL: English premiere of composer-in-residence Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's *Caroline Mathilde*. Chilternham Festival, Chilternham, Bucks. (071-837 1122). Tue-Sat, 8pm, Mon, 4pm, Sun, 12.15pm.

THE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF EUROPE: The young chamber orchestra, whose members have an average age of 30, is back in London, this time for two concerts conducted by Sir Colin Davis. Tonight's programme is *Caroline Mathilde* and *St Thomas Wake*. Royal College of Music, South Bank, London SE1 (071-837 1122). Tue-Sat, 8pm, Mon, 4pm, Sun, 12.15pm.

WHY IS JOHN LENNON WEARING A SHIRT?: Theatre's one-woman show about the Beatles. Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court, St Martin's Lane, SW1 (071-730 7475). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 12.15pm.

ENGLISH QUARTET: Fast-talking young British quartet plays *Verdiana*. British Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-837 1122). Tue-Sat, 8pm, Mon, 4pm, Sun, 12.15pm.

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (P) on release across the country.

Welles, Joseph Cotton. Premiere (071-438 4470).

F. FORN: Welles' arrival of Orson Welles in 1937 about Europe and the return of truth in art. Fast, furious, and delightfully ironic. (P) Cannon Pictures (071-830 0331) Sals (071-727 4043) Metro (071-427 0767).

JOAN OF ARC OF MONGOLIA: Western India travelling through Mongolia succumbs to the charms of a handsome, if slightly mad, Mongolian. (P) Cannon Pictures (071-830 0331) Sals (071-727 4043) Metro (071-427 0767).

THE KING OF NEW YORK (12): Christopher Walken as a ruthless hoodlum with style. Enthralling thriller that finally gets out of hand. (P) Cannon Pictures (071-830 0331) Sals (071-727 4043) Metro (071-427 0767).

LA. STORY (12): Steve Martin's western-style love story in wacky Los Angeles. (P) Cannon Pictures (071-830 0331) Sals (071-727 4043) Metro (071-427 0767).

THE LOST BOY (12): Christopher Walken as a ruthless hoodlum with style. Enthralling thriller that finally gets out of hand. (P) Cannon Pictures (071-830 0331) Sals (071-727 4043) Metro (071-427 0767).

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NOT WITHOUT MY DAUGHTER (12): Daily Field as an all-American wife trying to escape the Holocaust's tent. (P) Cannon Pictures (071-830 0331) Sals (071-727 4043) Metro (071-427 0767).

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Rosyth naval base is spared

By MICHAEL EVANS

DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Naval base at Rosyth, Scotland, which has been threatened with closure since the government's decision to cut 15,000 jobs in the defence industry, has been spared.

According to the defence secretary, Mr. Kenneth Clarke, the base will remain open for at least another 10 years. He said that the government was committed to the base and that it was not part of the 15,000 job cuts.

Mr. Clarke said that the base was one of the most important in the world and that it was essential to the country's defence. He said that the government was committed to the base and that it was not part of the 15,000 job cuts.

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BBC 1

- 6.00 Breakfast
- 6.30 BBC Breakfast News
- 9.05 Pinocchio, Cartoon 9.25 Why Don't You...? Entertaining ideas for bored youngsters (r)
- 10.00 Muppet Babies, Cartoon (r)
- 11.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Playdays (r) 10.30 Muppet Babies, Cartoon (r)
- 11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 Our House, American family drama series 11.55 The Travel Show Traveller: Lido di Jesolo. Andy Crane takes a trip to Lido di Jesolo in northern Italy (r)
- 12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 The Garden Party. Magazine show from Glasgow with Debbie Greenwood, Denise Tuohy and Paul Coia. Includes reports on the latest developments in the music recording industry and the forgotten plight of the Romanian orphans. Wales: Cricket 12.55 Regional News and weather
- 1.00 One O'Clock News and weather
- 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) 1.50 The Best of Collecting Now. Harriet Crawley looks back at some of the interesting collections featured in the first series, including a visit to the Beckett Museum Society (r)
- 2.20 Knots Landing. Shoulder-padded soap spawned by Dallas 3.10 Jim Fiedt Jr. Sir Jimmy Savile introduces some of the treats he has organised for children's charities. Today a girl gets her own command performance of a West End musical (r). (Ceefax)
- 3.45 Meet the Rainalds. Cartoon 4.10 Rupert (r) 4.15 Yogi's Treasure Hunt. Cartoon with the under-achieving grizzly (r)
- 4.35 Expo. Heather Couper's tour around the world's museums in Japan. Aso Volcano Museum, set near an active volcano in the south of Japan. (Ceefax)
- 5.00 Newsworld 5.10 The Bartons. Episode four of the 11-part children's drama (r)
- 5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax). Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 Inside Leisure
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather 6.30 Regional News magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours



Following in Kylie's footsteps: Danni Minogue (7.00pm)

- 7.00 Wogan. The guests are Kylie's sister Danni Minogue, Chris Donald, founder of V Magazine, and twins Glee and Keith Owen Blackpool, taking the floor for a cabaret routine with Latin American champions Sammy Stafford and Barbara McColl. But the serious business is a contest between Manchester and Birmingham. (Ceefax)
- 8.00 Police. By the Book. Sexual discrimination and a life or death choice put Mickey and George's relationship on the ropes. (Ceefax)
- 8.50 Points of View presented by Ann Robinson
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Burk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather
- 9.30 The Drug Wars: Camerana. Continuing the mini-series about the US Drug Agency's fight against narcotics villains. When Kid Camerana is reported missing in Mexico, the administration launches an urgent search, but finds the path blocked at every turn by corruption. Starring Steve Bauer, Craig T. Nelson, Treat Williams, Elizabeth Pena and Andy Romano. (Ceefax)
- 11.05 Thelma, Lies and Beauty. (Ceefax)
- CHOICE: In a programme from the Open Space stable, two women set out to explore the beauty business. Since Fiona from Liverpool is not only a hairdresser but spends 2500 a year on cosmetics you would think she knows the answers already. On the other hand her fellow investigator, Mary from London, says that with two teenage children and a business to run she hardly has time to get a lipstick out. Their journey takes them to an ad agency, where they get a dose of male chauvinism, and to the feminist writer, Nuala O'Faolain, who says the beauty industry is exploiting. The great debate is then set up for men or for themselves. The so-called experts are hopelessly divided. Fiona and Mary invite themselves to an operating theatre to watch a face being lifted. As the knife goes in, Fiona makes her excuses and leaves. Some viewers may also feel like averting their gaze. Wales: Cricket 11.35 Thelma, Lies and Beauty 12.30 News and weather 11.55 Weather

BBC 2

- 6.45 Open University: Social Science Foundation Course. Ends at 7.35
- 8.00 News. 8.15 Westminster. The latest news from both Houses
- 8.30 Catchword. Word game hosted by Paul Coia (r)
- 8.50 Film Lady for a Night (1941, b/w). The costumes are the best feature of this tale of a gambling queen trying to break into Deep South high society. Starring Joan Blondell and John Wayne, and directed by Leigh Jason
- 11.00 Film Gully? (1958, b/w). Lukewarm British drama about a French resistance heroine on trial for the murder of the man who betrayed her, whose innocence can only be proved by delving into the underworld of Alvin. John Justin and Barbara Leake star, supported by Donald Wolff and Stephen Murray. Edmund Greville directs
- 12.30 Tomb of the Lost King. How an archaeologist astonished his peers by claiming to have discovered the tomb of Philip of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great (r)
- 1.20 Mr Bean (r) 1.35 Country File. John Craven reports on how European food surpluses could solve African famine (r)
- 2.00 News and weather followed by England. Still-photo record of Ascot race meetings from 1928 to 1934 (r) 2.10 Search for Survivors. The heroic deeds of a Canadian search and rescue air squadron (r). Wales: Cricket
- 3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live 3.55 News, regional news and weather
- 4.00 Film A Canterbury Tale (1944, b/w). Strange and fascinating celebration of traditional England from Michael Powell and Eric Pressburger. Eric Portman plays a dotty magistrate who pours glow over girls' heads in the blackout. Dennis Price, Sheila Sim and John Sweet are three wartime pilgrims who finally unearth their loving shots of the Kentish landscape reinforce the patriotic message. Wales: Cricket
- 6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation - The Icarus Factor. High-tech update of the classic Star Trek sci-fi series. Riker is offered his own starship command, and Wolf has to go through a neurotic Klingon ritual. (Ceefax)
- 6.45 DEF II: Rough Guides to Careers - Catering. A look at how to make a living in the catering trade (r)
- 7.25 The Open Golf Championship 1990. With the 120th Open teeing off tomorrow at Royal Birkdale, Steve Rider presents highlights of Nick Faldo's victory last year. There will also be the latest pre-tournament news
- 8.05 Reaching for the Skies: Trailblazers. The history of flying reaches higher and faster with the growth of commercial services. The story of the Wright brothers and Charles Lindbergh's achievements in the Spirit of St Louis opened up the possibility of airborne passenger travel. Narrated by Anthony Quayle (r)



Re-opening old wounds: Sophie Ward, T.P. McKenna (8.00pm)

- 8.00 ScreenPlay: Events at Drimghogue. ● CHOICE: William Trevor's witty tales about rural Ireland have often made satisfying television but here he is in sharper mood. A farming community is shocked by a triple killing. The saintly young Maureen McDowd is found dead alongside her feckless boyfriend and his possessive mother. In time the locals learn to live with the tragedy and the police file is closed. A year later a television documentary crew arrives in the area, determined to find a fresh angle. What follows is partly an attack on media ethics, with money flowing freely to buy the story. Equally it is a shrewdly observed portrait of an entrenched community unwilling to think the unthinkable. Hugh Fraser (the hapless Captain Hastings of Poirot) and Sophie Ward lead the media intrusion and the over-eager T. P. McKenna plays the parish priest. The minichino landscape forms an appropriate backdrop to the drama. (Ceefax)
- 10.05 ScreenPlay Firsts: The King of Jazz. This jazz fantasy from New York looks off a season of short dramas from new directors. When the newly crowned but unconfident king of jazz arrives at his coronation gig, he finds a pretender to his throne ready to blow. (Ceefax)
- 10.30 Newsworld with Frances Stock
- 11.15 Push the Boat Out. Traditional Celtic music and other woolly-jumper entertainment recorded during the Glasgow Mayfest
- 11.55 Weather
- 12.00 Open University: Structural Components 12.25am Resource. Constraints. Ends at 12.55

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am
- 6.25 All Chued Up. Game show for married couples, hosted by David Hamilton 8.55 Thames News and weather
- 10.00 Film One of Our Dinosaurs is Missing (1975) Part one of a Disney family comedy starring Helen Hayes and Peter Ustinov. Directed by Robert Stevenson. (Part two tomorrow)
- 10.50 ITN News headlines 10.55 Good Morning, Misses. American school drama starring Hayley Mills 11.25 Oz Tales 11.55 Regional News and weather 12.00 Cartoon featuring Goofy 12.10 Allstars. Children's entertainment (r)
- 12.30 News with John Suchet Weather 1.10 Thames News and weather
- 1.20 Home and Away. (Oracle) 1.50 A Country Practice 2.20 Telenovela High Road 2.50 Crazy Comparisons. Game show 3.15 ITN News headlines 3.20 News at Ten 3.25 The Young Doctors. Australian soap set in a large city hospital
- 3.55 The Wombles. (Oracle) 4.05 Bangers and Mash. Animation (r) 4.15 I Can Do That (r) 4.40 Roff's Cartoon Club (r)
- 5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz for teenagers
- 5.40 News with Carol Barnes. (Oracle) Weather
- 5.55 Thames Help Jackie Sprackley with another case history of a person with an eating disorder
- 6.00 News at Ten (r) (Oracle) 6.30 Thames News and weather
- 7.00 Business's Holiday presented by Sarah Kennedy. Three teams of naturalists compete for a chance to see their job in operation in another country. (Oracle)
- 7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle)
- 8.00 We Are Seven. Last episode in the series about Bridget Morgan (Helen Roberts) and her seven illegitimate children (Oracle)

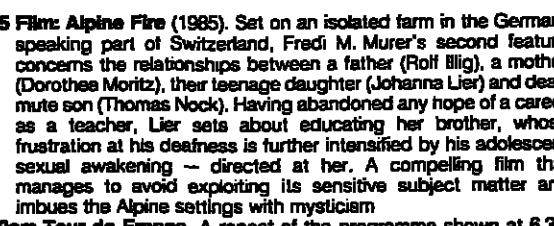


Unhappy medicine: James Randi, front, and psychics (8.00pm)

- 8.00 James Randi Investigates. ● CHOICE: The unfortunate named James Randi is a small, twinkling Canadian who has made his reputation on the other side of the Atlantic challenging bogus claims about the paranormal. In this series he invites the psychics of Britain to submit themselves to the sceptical appraisal of a studio audience. Tonight's session, featuring four mediums, seems unlikely to convince the uncommitted sceptics. Randi says he can discover information about a crime merely by handling a murder weapon. On this evidence the cops would do better to stick to fingerprints or even to call in Hercule Poirot. The other contributors, including someone called Coral Poige, fare little better. If there are someone out there, he or she seems reluctant to come forward. And despite Randi's efforts to jolly things along, the show is not even very entertaining
- 9.30 Singles. Well-crafted romantic comedy starring Simon Cadell, Judy Lee, Eamon Boland, Susan Blake
- 10.00 News at Ten with Alastair Stewart and Trevor McDonald. (Oracle) Weather 10.30 Thames News and weather
- 10.40 Disappearing World: The Mural - The Land is Bad ● CHOICE: This is the fourth time in 17 years that the Disappearing World team has filmed the Murs people of Ethiopia. They may be one of the most remote groups on earth but should they ever succumb to the drought, hunger, disease and war that have been their recent lot they will have been better documented than most parts of British society. Tonight's film is a sad study of bewildered people trying to survive against the odds. Their enemies are armed with Kalashnikov rifles, obtained from the Sudan. Last year hundreds of Murs died in a meningitis epidemic. Well can they say that the land is bad. It is not made better by the tourists, who are starting to treat them as exotic camera fodder. The film follows the preparations for the age set ceremony which could add to the young men's suffering. At the present rate many of the Murs children may not live to know what being an adult means. (Oracle)
- 11.40 Sidney Sheldon's Rage of Angels. First part of a glossy mini-series starring Jaclyn Smith as a beautiful young lawyer who arrives in New York determined to succeed (r)
- 1.25 Kik. Another episode on the New York City streets
- 2.15 Videofreak. New styles in menwear 2.40 America's Top Ten 3.10 Quiz Night. Pub and club quiz show
- 3.40 The New Seasons featuring the Boo Radleys 4.10 Windurst 4.40 Fifty Years On (b/w)
- 5.00 Grand Ole Opry. Country music from Nashville, Tennessee 5.30 ITN Morning News with Tim Neilson. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Channel 4 Daily
- 9.25 Film: Night Beat (1947, b/w). A dispensable British second feature starring Ronald Howard and Hector Ross as two ex-commandos who join the police. While Ross does well and is soon promoted, the unfortunates Howard clashes with his superiors and resigns. To complicate matters Ross is in love with Howard's sister (Ann Crawford). Directed by Harold Huth
- 10.55 The Poetry Book. Paul Scofield reads The Charge of the Light Brigade (r) 11.00 As It Happens. Andy Kershaw continues his "stretch" at Wormwood Scrubs Prison (r)
- 12.00 The Parliament Programme
- 12.30 Business Daily presented by Susannah Somers
- 1.00 Sesame Street (r)
- 2.00 Gallery. The informal arts quiz hosted by George Melly (r)
- 2.30 Film: The Thin Red Line (1938, b/w). The budget for this adaptation of a popular Broadway musical was so tight that the producers were unable to buy the rights to the songs and music. However in the hands of director Frank Capra (It Happened One Night) it works well enough as a light comedy. The setting is a circus and the plot turns on Joe Cook's unrequited love for his owner, John Peers, who in turn is in love with adventurer William Collier Jr. An unusual and rarely seen film
- 4.10 Goofs and Saddles (1937, b/w) Comedy starring the Three Stooges
- 4.30 Countdown. Words and numbers game
- 5.00 Laurel and Hardy. Cartoon adventures with Stan and Ollie
- 5.05 The Oprah Winfrey Show. The unmarried audience are instructed in the complex rituals of dating by writer Susan Wolf, writer of the book 50 Ways to Get a Date
- 6.00 A Different World. Award-winning American sitcom
- 6.30 Tour de France. As the cyclists are hewn south to the Pyrenees Phil Liggett, Paul Sherwen and Gary Linech predict the likely winner
- 7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zerah Badawi (Teletext) Weather
- 7.50 Party Political Comment from a Plaid Cymru politician
- 8.00 Brookside. Suburban Merseyside soap (Teletext)
- 8.30 Check Out '91. Mike Embury presents an investigation into the European veil trade and Britain's role in it
- 9.00 Out. The magazine programme on gay and lesbian issues. Sex and the Satchinians looks at the uneasy relationship between revolutionaries and homosexuals. This is Dedicated confronts the double taboos of death and homosexuality and takes a look at the grieving process through four powerful interviews
- 10.00 The Golden Girls. Sparkling sitcom about four matrons sharing a Miami house. Blanche (Plus McCann) returns to night school to finish her degree and meets a teacher who wishes to educate her about subjects not found in the curriculum (r) (Teletext)
- 10.30 The New Statesman: Natural Selection. Repeat of the third comedy series about the loathsome far right Tory MP, Alan B. Stard (Rik Mayall). At the B. Stard annual cocktail party, Alan assumes himself by abusing his constituents - but this time he may have gone too far. Good support from Michael Troughton as supervisor Piers Fletcher-Dervish (r) (Teletext)
- 11.00 Just for Laughs. At the Montreal Comedy Festival, Muriel Gray and Jimmy Kavalie visit the hotels favoured by the performers
- 11.30 Frank's Place. Taped American sitcom about conservative college professor Frank Parnes (Tim Allen) who rents a New Orleans restaurant and its disparate clientele



Sibling love: Johann Lieber educates Thomas Nock (11.55pm)

- 11.55 Film: Alpine Fire (1985). Set on an isolated farm in the German-speaking part of Switzerland, Fredi M. Murer's second feature concerns the relationships between a father (Rolf Illig), a mother (Dorothea Moritz), their teenage daughter (Johanna Lieber) and daughter son (Thomas Nock). Having abandoned any hope of a career as a teacher, Lieber sets about educating her brother, whose frustration at his deafness is further intensified by his adolescent sexual awakening - directed at her. A compelling film that manages to avoid exploring its sensitive subject matter and imbues the Alpine settings with mysticism
- 1.50am Tour de France. A repeat of the programme shown at 6.30. Ends at 2.15

ANGLIA

- As London except 6.50pm-7.00pm Anglia News 11.40 World Student Games 12.40 Quiz Night 1.10 America's Top Ten 1.40 News at Ten 1.50 News at Ten 2.10 News at Ten 2.30 News at Ten 2.50 News at Ten 3.10 News at Ten 3.30 News at Ten 3.50 News at Ten 4.10 News at Ten 4.30 News at Ten 4.50 News at Ten 5.10 News at Ten 5.30 News at Ten 5.50 News at Ten 6.10 News at Ten 6.30 News at Ten 6.50 News at Ten 7.10 News at Ten 7.30 News at Ten 7.50 News at Ten 8.10 News at Ten 8.30 News at Ten 8.50 News at Ten 9.10 News at Ten 9.30 News at Ten 9.50 News at Ten 10.10 News at Ten 10.30 News at Ten 10.50 News at Ten 11.10 News at Ten 11.30 News at Ten 11.50 News at Ten 12.10 News at Ten 12.30 News at Ten 12.50 News at Ten 1.10 News at Ten 1.30 News at Ten 1.50 News at Ten 1.70 News at Ten 1.90 News at Ten 2.10 News at Ten 2.30 News at Ten 2.50 News at Ten 2.70 News at Ten 2.90 News at Ten 3.10 News at Ten 3.30 News at Ten 3.50 News at Ten 3.70 News at Ten 3.90 News at Ten 4.10 News at Ten 4.30 News at 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LAW REPORT 28
SPORT 35-40

THE TIMES BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY JULY 17 1991

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Business Editor
John Bell

New coin lifts Mint to record £15.5m

THE introduction of the new 5p coin helped Royal Mint to a record profit, after interest payments, of £15.5 million in the year ended March 31.

Strong overseas sales, accounting for 54 per cent of the total, contributed to revenues up £5.3 million at £109 million. The Mint, operating for its first year as a government executive agency, paid a dividend of £14 million to the Treasury.

David Snell, the Mint's deputy chief executive, said record sales were accompanied by efficiency improvements and record production levels. The number of employees at the Mint's plant in Llantrisant, Mid-Glamorgan, had risen from 970 to 1,030.

Brent Walker began new moves yesterday to stave off an order that it must honour an agreement to pay Grand Metropolitan a deferred £50 million instalment for its purchase of William Hill Group.

The Court of Appeal hearing follows a High Court Chancery division ruling by Mr Justice Hoffman, earlier this year, that sums outstanding on the £600 million deal should be paid. The deal has been at the centre of a long-running dispute. The hearing is expected to end today.

Triplex declines

Triplex Lloyd, the engineering and building products group, is holding its total dividend at 7p a share, with an unchanged final of 4.5p, after suffering a decline in annual pre-tax profits to £7.57 million (£12.34 million). Earnings were 12.7p a share (20.4p).

Temps, page 27

Eurotherm slips

Pre-tax profits at Eurotherm International, the electronic control equipment manufacturer, in the six months ended April 30 fell to £4.57 million (£6.39 million). The dividend is held at 2.5p.

Temps, page 27

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6485 (-0.0030)
German mark 2.9588 (-0.0053)
Exchange index 90.6 (+0.2)

FT 30 Share

1971.4 (+20.3)
FT-SE 100 2556.8 (+24.3)
New York Dow Jones 2888.15 (-2.46)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23375.15 (-83.89)

MAJOR CHANGES

RIBES: 5521p (+10p)
Laporte 5571p (+10p)
Reid 3331p (+15p)
Guinness 5951p (+14p)
Scott & Newcastle 115p (+11p)
Nat West 3261p (+12p)
Standard Chart 350p (+10p)
Argus 321p (+10p)
Wit Smith 4121p (+10p)
Delta 3221p (+10p)
Rental Team 3071p (+11p)
ECC Group 445p (+10p)
BTP 4011p (+10p)
GKN 3381p (+10p)
Rank Org 6571p (+17p)
Smiths Beach 622p (+15p)
Wellcome 739p (+18p)
Hewlett Packard 5331p (+12p)
FALLS: 6061p (-18p)
Reid 6221p (-7p)
ADT 6221p (-7p)
Closing Prices...Page 29

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 11%
3-month interbank 11-10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 10-10 1/2%
US: Prime Rate 6 1/2%
Federal Funds 5 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.57-5.58%
30-year bonds 9 1/2-9 5/8%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£: \$1.6485 \$: £1.6440
£: Sfr2.9588 \$: Sfr2.9551
£: FF10.0416 \$: FF10.0505
£: Yen225.57 \$: Yen137.13
£: Index30.8 \$: Index30.8
ECU: £0.494293 \$: £0.494293
ECU: £1.440293 \$: £1.440293

GOLD

London: AM \$368.50 pm \$368.70
close \$368.70 \$369.20 (\$223.80-224.30)
New York: Close \$369.35 \$369.65

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) \$19.85 bbl (\$19.50)
Denotes latest trading price

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 134.1 June (1987=100)

Closure considered unnecessary

Sheikh looks at legal action over BCCI

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England is failing in its attempts to win compensation from the ruler of Abu Dhabi for the one and a quarter million depositors in the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Bank's governor, is visiting Abu Dhabi in a final attempt to gain support from Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, the ruler of Abu Dhabi, whose family controls 77.4 per cent of BCCI's shares.

Last year, the Sheikh pledged his financial support for BCCI to its international committee of regulators. Originally, the Bank had hoped he

would honour this promise and supply at least part of the \$4 billion thought to have been lost.

A public statement from the secretive Abu Dhabi authorities, however, suggests the Sheikh is considering legal action against the Bank and Price Waterhouse, BCCI's auditors, to compensate him for the \$2 billion he is estimated to have lost.

The Abu Dhabi authorities believe the closure was unnecessary and could have been dealt with by a capital injection, the reorganisation of the bank and the removal of any staff who committed fraud.

The statement said the majority shareholders were

"shocked" by the Bank's action, which had been made without any consultation with the shareholders, and added that the Sheikh considered the closure unnecessary, since BCCI was already being reorganised.

The Abu Dhabi authorities say they discovered "irregularities" at BCCI in the middle of last year, and took steps to counter them. The Sheikh's advisers were working on a reconstruction plan when BCCI was shut down, and had submitted its latest proposals to the Bank of England two days before the closure. They involved the divestment of BCCI's banking activities and the injection of capital into three new banks in London, Abu Dhabi and Hong Kong.

A Bank of England spokesman said: "We entirely appreciate what was done by the majority shareholders to address the problems identified last year. But the report received last month indicated problems of an entirely different and more pervasive kind which could not be addressed just by management changes."

"The action taken by the regulators this month, in light of the latest report, was absolutely necessary to protect the assets of the bank."

The Sheikh and his son have hired Simmonds & Simmonds, a City legal firm, to advise on the failure, and a team of solicitors has travelled to Abu Dhabi.

A Price Waterhouse spokesman said the firm was confident it had done professional work and had kept in contact with BCCI's regulators.

Meanwhile, pressure is growing for the Bank to disclose why it decided there was no alternative but to close BCCI. MPs are meeting Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, tomorrow to call for more information and higher compensation for individuals and local authorities.

Governor flies out, page 1
Western Isles enquiry, page 2
Comment, page 27

Staff challenges closure by Bank

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

EMPLOYEES at the Bank of Credit and Commerce International are planning to challenge the Bank of England in the High Court next Monday in an effort to reopen BCCI's 25 branches in Britain.

The BCCI staff action committee will appeal to the court to set aside the Bank of England's application for a formal winding-up order for BCCI.

The committee is taking legal advice on ways the branches could be reopened, backed by a Bank of England lifeline and a six-month moratorium on large withdrawals.

The staff committee believes BCCI's British operation was still solvent when it was closed by the Bank two weeks ago. It is being supported in its attempts to reopen the bank by a group of MPs, led by Keith Vaz, MP for Leicestershire East.

The Bank of England has moved the date of the court hearing forward, so that the

deposit protection scheme can begin making compensation payments to some holders of BCCI's 120,000 accounts.

Plans for the move came as Touche Ross, BCCI's provisional liquidator, paid out almost £340,000 in cash to BCCI's 1,200 employees.

Staff queued for up to four hours in the City for a week's wages, which Touche had offered last week as a hardship payment. All BCCI staff were compelled to hold their accounts at the bank, so many have been left without money since the closure on July 5.

A team of 30 Touche staff worked through the weekend counting the wages. The accountancy firm says some staff may not have received a letter about the payout in time and should contact its helpline.

Touche has written to all BCCI staff telling them they are still employed by the bank and will receive their pay as usual at the end of the month.

BA blames profit slump on recession and government

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways has unveiled the company's most dramatic restructuring since its flotation four years ago, blaming the recession and government decisions for its profits slump. At the same time, the airline abandoned its annual £40,000 contribution to the Conservative party.

Lord King, the chairman, told the annual meeting yesterday that the company had been hard hit by the recession and the Gulf war. But he insisted British Airways was also suffering from a series of decisions by the government which had increased competition on its route network without any compensatory access to the protected markets of its principal competitors.

Traffic had been better than expected during the three

months to June, Lord King told shareholders at the Barbican concert hall in London. "I anticipate being close to break-even during the first quarter," he said. But he could not be confident the traffic improvement would continue.

BA had begun talks with trade unions, revealed exclusively in *The Times* yesterday, about a large restructuring to cut costs further. The engine overhaul facility in South Wales might be sold. Other operations, catering, contract handling, cargo operations, telexes, avionics workshops and aircraft maintenance might be sold to staff, or transferred to joint ventures.

Lord King said after the meeting that many of BA's peripheral areas had "grown like Topsy" as a result of the

airline's success. They needed more capital to expand. He believed their prospects, and their employees', would be improved if they were separated, with BA remaining a big customer.

"We can't finance these people and there is no reason why we should," he said. "Our business is to get people into planes and to fly them. I don't want to make bread rolls. I want to eat them." BA needed all its capital to buy aeroplanes, Lord King said. BA was on target to achieve a cut of 4,600 in its 50,000 workforce this year. But non-core businesses would have a better chance to grow if they were independent.

Contribution halted, page 1
Stock market, page 28

Guessing game tops TV ratings

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE final results will not be known until late October, but the guessing game has begun in the gossip-loving world of broadcasting over the size of cash bids lodged by applicants in the Channel 3 television licence auction.

Everyone knows that TVS Entertainment has bid far more than its three rivals in trying to retain its south of England franchise, but depending on which insider one chooses to believe, that bid could be anything between £48 million and £55 million for each of the ten years of the licence's life.

TVS plans to put all punters out of their misery in early August, when it reveals the sum of its bid to shareholders. But the speculation will continue: will TVS be able to sustain payments to the Treasury of about £75 million a year (its cash bid plus 11 per cent of advertising revenue) without the quality of its programmes suffering? At best, say

industry sources, TVS is heading for several years in the red, if the Independent Television Commission allows it to pass the quality threshold.

There are also doubts as to whether Yorkshire Television, which is understood to have outbid its two rivals with £34 million, can hope to break even in 1993 and 1994 at that level.

Many are also questioning the wisdom of ITV, one of ITV's most vulnerable incumbents, in bidding £14 million - a sum several million pounds above Flextech-backed C3W. It is also thought that Tyne Tees has bid too high, at £14 million, to beat North East Television.

Granada and TV-am appear to be the only incumbents to have bid far lower than rivals. Granada, thought to have bid just under £20 million, is trailing Phil Redmond's North West Television by between £8 million and £15 million.

Granada's only hope is that the ITC either fails to allow Mr Redmond's bid past the quality threshold or invokes the

exceptional circumstances clause to ensure victory for Granada.

TV-am cannot expect to see its competition disqualified on quality grounds. Sunrise TV is thought to have bid £35 million, while Daybreak TV is thought to have bid £34 million. TV-am, ironically the most profitable ITV company, with pre-tax profits of £26 million, is understood to have bid less than £30 million.

Sources close to TV-am claim that a bid at £35 million is unsustainable. Such a sum plus a 15 per cent advertising levy would result in a £50 million payment to the Treasury each year. TV-am's advertising revenue last year was £88.4 million. With TV-am's costs running at about £45 million a year, a group bidding £35 million would report a £7 million loss.

Lord Brabourne, the chairman of Thames Television, warned shareholders at the annual meeting of a pre-tax loss in the first half of the current year.



Sacrificing the job for an idea: Peter Walker will stay on at MCC until September

Walker devises demerger for MCC offshoots in US

By MATTHEW BOND

PETER Walker, the chairman designate of Maxwell Communications Corporation, yesterday took full credit for a plan to demerge MCC's American business. But in thinking up the idea to increase shareholder value, the former secretary of state for Wales had done himself out of a job.

Mr Walker said he developed the demerger plan after making a full inspection of MCC's businesses on his appointment as chairman designate in April. Mr Walker had been expected to take over the chair from Robert Maxwell at the beginning of this month but Mr Maxwell will remain chairman until the demerger is completed this year. Mr Maxwell also handed over the separate role of chief executive to his son Kevin.

Mr Walker said his tour of the American firms, Macmillan Inc, Official Airline Guides and the Berlitz language schools, had made it obvious where MCC's strengths lay.

"Here was a very great American company. It was silly to sit in Holborn running it," Mr Walker said he conveyed his thoughts to the Maxwell family on his return. "They looked at the idea and found it attractive."

Kevin Maxwell confirmed Mr Walker's comment, adding that MCC's own management had come up with a demerger proposal at about the same time.

Mr Walker denied reports that his stepping down as chairman had anything to do with a review of MCC's finances, allegedly commissioned by him. "There has been no internal report and I am not in dispute with the Maxwell family. The only figures I know

about are the figures in the annual report and accounts."

Mr Maxwell also denied that the value of MCC's assets matched its £1.3 billion of debt. "You only have to open the report and accounts to see we have assets of £2.8 billion."

He added that once the decision was made to demerge MCC's American businesses - which account for 90 per cent of MCC's operating profits - it was clear to him that he was not the right man to chair it. "The reason I am going is that I think it would be absurd for myself to be chairman of

the American company and, without being rude, the British end that is left is not a company I have a particular desire to be chairman of."

Mr Walker is staying on at least until September's annual meeting. Advisers on the demerger will be named within a week, said Mr Maxwell. Smith New Court, MCC's incumbent adviser, is expected to handle at least part of the British end.

Full details of the demerger plan are expected at MCC's annual meeting in September.

Quiet findings, page 27

Share prices soar to record

By MICHAEL CLARK, STOCK MARKET CORRESPONDENT

SHARE prices on the London stock market soared to record levels with investors predicting that the economy is starting to climb out of recession.

The FT-SE 100 index surged 24.3 to a new all-time closing high of 2,556.8 - a rise of almost 60 points since the Bank of England reduced bank base rates on Friday half a point to 11 per cent. The previous best of 2,545.3 was achieved on April 5.

At one stage, the index touched a new all-time trading high of 2,561.2, but closed below its best after a hesitant start to trading in New York. Most of the demand centred on the top 200 companies but because of stock shortages, price movements became exaggerated. The banks and stores both attracted support. Nothing radical has happened to steer the economy back onto a growth track since Friday, but there is a view among investors that the latest reduction in interest rates will be enough to rekindle industry. The Tories' improved showing in the opinion polls has helped sentiment.

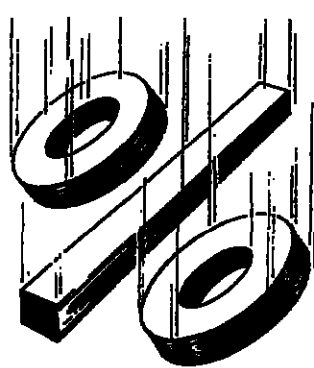
In the past, the stock market has often been seen as a reliable and early indicator of economic trends and many industrialists will be encouraged by this dramatic change of mood.

Dealers are taking a more cautious line. A total of 495 million shares changed hands yesterday. That is a small improvement on the previous few days but conditions generally remain sensitive.

After the strong run of the past two weeks, market-makers are finding themselves squeezed by stock shortages. They have been running level trading positions for some time in the knowledge that institutions have been holding back, investing in the equity market in spite of high levels of liquidity. That could change if fund managers start to get the bit between their teeth, but it could be some time before firm evidence of an end to the recession start to filter through.

The Quality of Markets Unit at the Stock Exchange says that rights issue in the second quarter of 1991 rose to their highest levels since the crash in October 1987. During the first six months of the year a total of £5 billion was raised by almost 90 companies.

Stock market, page 28



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Markets overdo the celebration

COMMENT

When stock markets close at a record high, can economic recovery be far away? Frankly, yes. Yesterday's sprint by the FTSE 100 index should be seen not so much as a serious indication that recovery is under way, but more of an advance celebration that the recession is coming to an end. Press a fund manager for more precise timing and like as not you will be given a shrug of the shoulders.

Throughout the thick of the company reporting season, chairman after chairman have delivered the view that there is no hard evidence of recovery to be seen. Indeed, since the false dawn of spring, when the Gulf war ended and executives were anticipating business as usual, economic gloom has deepened. Enter the dismal scientists right on cue. The serious debate now centres on whether or not the recession will be V-shaped or W-shaped. In other words, will things become worse before they get better?

More to the point, how will things get better whenever that happens to be? With a great deal

of spare capacity waiting to be used, the chances of an investment-led recovery are too slim to take seriously. Even if exports do perform strongly, it would be asking altogether too much for overseas sales to drag the economy from its depths.

Economists now tend to the view that the consumer is key to any gradual pick-up in activity. Yet there is no sign just now of any solid strengthening of consumer spending. The message from the real economy remains depressing.

To understand the buoyancy of share prices, it is necessary to look at more parochial factors. Professional investors started the year with exceptionally high levels of cash or near cash. With interest rates at 15 per cent for so long and profits on the slide, parking cash in safe high yield securities was a far more attractive option than risking further losses in equities. When confident noises began to emerge

from Westminster of a second half recovery, few fund managers wished to be seen heavily overweight in cash.

Without a real sight of what lay over the hill, investors piled back into the market, taking the Footsie up from its mid January low beneath 2100 to 2500 in the space of two months. Soon the market began to drift as a flood of rights issues provided an effortless route back into the market for those with large cash balances. For three months the market has traded in a narrow range between 2400 and 2550, simply waiting for something to turn up. The most recent base rate cut to 11 per cent provided a signal of sorts.

It provided further assurance that the Chancellor will in due course be able to continue bringing the cost of money down

without upsetting sterling or the delicate balance of parities within the exchange rate mechanism.

On fundamentals, share prices are discounting profits growth some way off into next year. Even assuming a 15 per cent earnings advance in 1992, shares are not notably cheap by recent British market standards. The smart money is still betting that profit taking will reverse part of the recent Footsie rise. Fund managers as usual, seem content to travel hopefully towards recovery though its arrival is still some way off.

Bank siege

There is a touch of siege mentality at the Bank of England these days. Robin Leigh-Pemberton and his min-

ions are being pressed on all sides about the handling of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International affair. Some say the Bank acted too slowly, that it should have noticed the fraud at BCCI years ago, after the disclosures of money laundering, and warnings from Price Waterhouse and American investigators that BCCI was in financial trouble. This would have prevented the public from placing money in an unstable institution.

Others claim that the Bank moved too hastily. They say BCCI should have continued trading, after a capital injection from the Abu Dhabi shareholders and a purge of any fraudulent members of senior management. The Bank is asking all its critics for a supreme act of faith. It says the fraud was on such a scale and of such a kind that its only option was to order an unprecedented worldwide closure. The Bank cannot supply a scrap of evidence to support its case. Under the

terms of the 1987 Banking Act, the Bank cannot show any outside the contents of the Price Waterhouse report, without High Court permission. Even the liquidator in the Cayman Islands has not seen a copy of the report.

So Mr Leigh-Pemberton has been forced to meet journalists, MPs and the Abu Dhabi authorities and not been able to give them a full insight into the fraud that Price Waterhouse has uncovered.

The secrecy that is enshrined in section 82 of the Banking Act is intended to protect bank depositors.

An adverse report on a bank may lead to a loss of confidence, a run on deposits and ultimately illiquidity. The Bank uses its right to secrecy with zeal.

Full publication of a ten volume set of the Price Waterhouse reports on BCCI however would damage no-one. BCCI's 14 million depositors have little more to lose, since their assets are frozen and the amount they will eventually receive from the liquidation will not be affected by any more adverse publicity about the bank.

Quiet innings planned for the new captain of MCC

MR MAXWELL'S commitment to retire from MCC is still very much there.

The speaker was Kevin Maxwell, who yesterday, at the age of 32, became chief executive of Maxwell Communication Corporation, the publishing company built by the man he was talking about, his father, Robert Maxwell.

As first days go, Mr Maxwell, whom one suspects will have to labour under the label of junior for a while, was not having an easy time. According to press reports, MCC had zero net worth and had lost Peter Walker, its chairman-designate. On top of that there was the small matter of a full-scale corporate restructuring, with MCC confirming that it planned to demerge its valuable American interests.

All in all, a pretty normal day at Maxwell headquarters in central London, where corporate restructuring of one sort or another is almost an everyday occurrence.

It sounded the perfect cue for a typical Maxwell senior entrance, all helicopters and harassed aides, and a few barked orders to restore the mess made by lesser mortals. It was not to be. Displaying not the first sign of being ruffled, Kevin Maxwell was calmness itself. "A very exciting day" was how he mildly described events.

While his father would have boomed the upbeat message, his son's tones were more measured. But the message was the same. "The fundamental decision to look to increase shareholder value through a demerger has been taken and there is no going back on that."

The "no going back" means there is to be no permanent position at MCC for Peter Walker, the former secretary of state for Wales, whose appointment to the MCC board in March this year looked to have opened a new chapter in his life.

But by demerging MCC's huge American businesses, which account for 90 per cent of operating profits, 70 per cent of assets and a large if unspecified percentage of MCC's debt, Mr Walker is



Out on his own: Kevin Maxwell eases himself into the chief executive's seat yesterday

now out of a job. According to Mr Maxwell, the British and European rump of MCC will, with sales of a mere £300 million, be too modest an affair for a man of Mr Walker's standing to bother with.

So is Mr Walker unhappy about his short-lived return to the City? Not according to Mr Maxwell, who says Mr Walker deserves much of the credit for the demerger idea.

"I think it is ironic that Peter Walker suggested it,

undertook when he visited the businesses in Britain and the United States. He met the management and formed his own opinion."

For Maxwell-watchers grown fat on a diet of claim and vigorous counterclaim, Mr Walker's view is something of a disappointment. He backs Mr Maxwell's version almost to the letter. His recent tour of MCC's American businesses, Macmillan Inc. Official Airline Guides (OAG) and the Berlitz language

Kevin Maxwell's role as chief executive will be confined to the British and European businesses

almost at the same time that the idea emerged internally. In that sense he agrees fully with the decision." Mr Maxwell said the final decision to pursue the demerger path was taken a fortnight ago, after presentations to Mr Walker in New York and Chicago.

"We started looking at alternatives, I suppose, about a year ago. But the timing of this in part reflected Peter's arrival in April and the review he

schools, made it abundantly clear where the company's real strengths lay.

"They are staggering businesses. Here were 90 per cent of the profits and 70 per cent of the assets being run out of an office in Holborn. It was silly," Mr Walker said he made his views clear to the Maxwell family on his return.

"I asked them to look at whether it was sensible to continue with a London-based

company. They looked at the idea and found it attractive."

Mr Walker says he has no regrets that the demerger will leave him out of a job. "The reason I am going is that I think it would be absurd for myself to be chairman of an American company and, without being rude, the British end that is left is not a company I have a particular desire to be chairman of."

Who will actually head the two demerged parts of MCC is a little unclear, although Robert Maxwell will stay on as chairman until the demerger. Kevin Maxwell's role as chief executive will be confined to the British and European businesses, while his counterpart at the far larger American business is expected to be David Shaffer of OAG. New chairmen for both companies are being sought.

Robert Maxwell, however, will not hand over two top jobs without a characteristic curtain call.

The popularity he is still enjoying in America after buying the New York Daily News makes him the ideal man to handle the American end of the demerger.

MATTHEW BOND

Eurotherm chiefs aim to keep the show on the road

TEMPUS

EUROTHERM International best puts over the message of how the trials of recession are hurting British industry not so much by its interim results as by the example of how its management is coping.

Jack Leonard, the chairman, says management is not buying new cars - but is running its existing fleet longer, "and if things get worse, then we might move to bicycles, and then to buses to get to work."

The recession unsettled divisions across the board in the six months to April 30, and in most of its geographical areas of operation. Eurotherm, as a volume-sensitive group, suffered from reduced activity within the fields it serves - plastics, metals and chemicals.

That turnover in the interim period, which fell from £80.1 million to £77.5 million and lost £4.6 million from currency movements, managed to hold relatively steady owes much to the winning of new customers in different markets. The tougher times have, therefore, highlighted gaps within the food and pharmaceutical areas that Eurotherm hopes to plug, and thereby widen its customer field.

But with interim pre-tax profits down from £6.39 million to £4.57 million, and operating profit back from

£7.42 million to £5.53 million, Eurotherm looks like announcing its second year-on-year profits slide in succession when year-end results are to hand.

Overheads, meanwhile, are being contained, and capital expenditure is being restricted. Gearing is up from 29.5 per cent at last balance sheet date to 33 per cent at April 30.

The order intake in June and the backlog at the end of that month at £31 million are equivalent to two months' sales, but there is only faint hope that the customer base will overnight be in a spending mood again.

The interim dividend is held at 2.5p, payable from net earnings of 6.7p (9.75p).

The October 31 year-end could see pre-tax profits of £10 million (£13.2 million), to put the shares at 242p, down 3p, on a demanding 18.6 times prospective earnings. The 1992 financial year could see

profits edge up to £12 million, on which the rating is 13.8. Recovery hopes are, meanwhile, well reflected in the share price.

Triplex Lloyd

PROFITS at Triplex Lloyd appear to have fallen off a cliff, which is probably no more than you would expect from a company closely associated with the automotive and building sectors. The true picture is less depressing.

At the pre-tax level, profits were £7.57 million for the year to the end of March, against £12.43 million. The 1990 figures included, however, £4.9 million from property, compared with just £468,000 this time, and £2.84 million from divested companies that earned only £1.5 million in the year just ended.

Operating profits from continuing businesses actually

rose from £8.99 million to £9.18 million. Notably, building products returned almost unchanged profits of £2.36 million, against £2.52 million, although this was achieved on sales almost £12 million higher at £52.2 million.

Automotive and engineering, which supplies the likes of Ford, Rover and Jaguar, also looks remarkably solid with profits, only marginally down from £3.1 million to £2.8 million, belying the depressed state of the auto industry.

The return on capital employed, excluding property profits, rose from 13.2 per cent to 14.3 per cent, no mean achievement in current markets, and gearing has come down from 50 per cent to 38 per cent, clipping £1 million off interest charges.

The bad news is that there is no sign of any improvement in each of Triplex Lloyd's sectors and the outlook is grim. A maintained dividend of 7p is covered just 1.8 times by earnings of 12.7p, down from 20.4p.

For once the claim that one is well placed to benefit from the recovery - if and when it comes - rings true. This year Robert Sassoon, the County NatWest analyst, expects profits of £8 million and earnings of 13p, putting the shares, up 5p to 118p, on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 9.

Roundtable rescue for manufacturing

THE role of manufacturing in the British economy is undergoing a profound reassessment. A decade of government emphasis on the growth of the service sector is, at last, being balanced by a recognition that manufacturing matters.

The precise causes of this change are hard to pin down. The growth of Britain's trade gap in the late Eighties and the failure of the service sector to offset the deficit have contributed. So, too, has a recognition by government of the scale of benefits Britain can reap from the construction of assembly plants by Japanese car companies.

Perhaps the most profound change, however, in attitude stems from the very success of the manufacturing sector during the latter half of the last decade in improving output, profits and the quality of its products.

Yesterday the need for a single, effective voice to represent industry was articulated for the first time by John Banham, the director general of the Confederation of British Industry.

Mr Banham, while addressing CBI members in Birmingham, in the heartland of Britain's engineering industry, revealed plans to establish a National Manufacturing Roundtable, to act as the voice of manufacturing.

The plan is a joint initiative with the Engineering Employers' Federation. Talks have been held with other manufacturing trade associations linked to the CBI.

Although working under the CBI umbrella, the Roundtable would be a substantial organisation in its own right. Mr Banham said he expected it to comprise board-level representatives from the top 100 manufacturing companies, as well as the presidents of the Engineering Council and trade associations. It might meet, he said, three times a year and elect a chairman and a five-strong executive committee.

The real effectiveness of the Roundtable, however, would lie in its permanent directorate. Mr Banham proposed the appointment of a director with a strong record in industry, carrying the status of a deputy director general of the CBI, and a small high calibre staff, some on secondment from member companies.

The Roundtable would pro-



Personal cause: John Banham, CBI director general

duce an annual "State of the Nation" report, identifying the problems and opportunities facing manufacturers and suggesting ways to tackle them. It would issue regular surveys of manufacturing prospects, building on existing CBI surveys, and expand them to provide data on particular sectors where appropriate.

Roundtable would also identify priorities for CBI staff and provide them with "strategic direction" on manufacturing policy, export promotion, the future of the ECGD and the promotion of partnership between manufacturers and their component suppliers, for example.

Mr Banham said that provided the CBI's governing council gave its approval, he expected the Roundtable to be in place by next year.

"Manufacturing has always mattered," Mr Banham said. "It will matter even more in the 1990s. Without a strong manufacturing base, able to

compete with the best in Europe and the Far East, the UK would be even more seriously handicapped in the future than it has been in the past."

The director general said some manufacturing sectors were of such importance that their prosperity affected the prosperity of entire regions, and sometimes of the nation as a whole. The aerospace industry, automotive engineering, information technology, machine tools and telecommunications were areas of strategic importance to the country.

The formation of the Roundtable would be a considerable personal achievement for Mr Banham. Throughout his time at the helm of Britain's foremost industry body, the former head of the Audit Commission has campaigned for British industry to match German levels of training and investment.

His time at the CBI, however, is drawing to a close. Although he has agreed to extend his contract to see the CBI through the next parliamentary election, Mr Banham can be seen as laying the foundations for the direction he wants his successor to pursue. Mr Banham has clearly made the Roundtable a personal cause. "We are going to set the new organisation up if I have any say in the matter," he said. "And we are going to do it within our existing resources."

ROSS TIEMAN
Industrial Correspondent

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Bishop plays white knight

WARRIORS throughout the ages have invoked God on their side, so ICI will no doubt be consoled by the support of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Middlesbrough in its time of trouble. Union officials on Teesside, where the chemicals company has facilities, asked Bishop Harris if the Church had any policy on rumours of a takeover bid by Hanson, the 2.8 per cent shareholder. They were well rewarded: the bishop is concerned about Hanson's social accountability and its attitude to research. Alas, man shall not live by the Word alone. The bishop's reply is equally forthcoming on ungodly matters such as the ICI pensions scheme. Hanson declines to take a reciprocal position on the Church. Spokesman Martin Taylor says: "I have no comments on theological matters. We have 80,000 employees who seem well protected from on high."

DEATH could not cheat James Doel of writing the report that accompanied yesterday's profit figures at Triplex Lloyd. Doel died, aged 46, last week, less than a year after he took on the role of chairman. Colin Cooke, his successor, declined to rewrite one word of what Doel had submitted, a fitting tribute to a man who as chief executive changed

the debt-laden foundry company into an industrial engineering group.

Trading places

MORGAN Grenfell Asset Management has lured three fund managers from Mercury Asset Management. Joining next month will be Nicola Horlick, Charles Curtis and James Goulding. Also moving at about the same time will be Sara Wigglesworth, small-business analyst at Credit Lyonnais Laing, who will strengthen Panmure Gordon's traditional role at the smaller end of the market. Many of Panmure's brokerages are among the more modestly sized listed companies.

Taxman cometh

IN WATFORD, Wimbledon and Woolwich, the self-employed are surely dancing in the streets. So, too, is there rejoicing in Wembley, Woburn and Woodford. Tax officers noticing a distinct lack of enthusiasm among residents in the London area to fill in

their 1990-1 F11 income tax forms were mystified that the culprit tended to live in areas beginning with W. Subsequent inquiries revealed that 33,000 forms for those areas had never been delivered. The Inland Revenue's Peterborough office blames the postal service. The Royal Mail denies responsibility but as a goodwill gesture is handling a new batch free this week. Late payers normally suffer a 10 per cent penalty, but in the affected areas the deadline for completing the forms has been put back from October 31 to January 31, 1992. An Inland Revenue spokesman says: "We are reasonable people."

ANOTHER recession, another optimist... just as businesses are trying to get rid of their debt burdens, out comes the first edition of the Directory of Commercial Finance Lenders, described by Commercial Initiative, the publisher, as "the most definitive guide to commercial mortgages".

RODNEY HOBSON



"Cheer up comrade - we might get a contribution from Lord King"

National Westminster Bank Mortgage Rate

With effect from 17 July 1991 for new borrowers, and from 1 August for existing borrowers, the NatWest Mortgage Rate payable under current Mortgage Deeds and Conditions of Offer will be reduced from 12.45% to 11.95%. This change will be reflected in existing borrowers' repayments from 5 or 22 August 1991.

National Westminster Home Loans Limited

41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP.

STOCK MARKET

WALL STREET

Greenspan's view holds Dow back

This new-found confidence was not reflected in turnover

Reuters fell 18p to 806½p before interim figures next week expected to show pre-tax profits marginally ahead at £152½ million. The merger of



Russian route: Lord King, of BA, in talks with Aeroflot
Manufacturers Hanover and Chemical Bank, the American banks, will lead to cutbacks and there are worries it could result in a large number of Reuters terminals being withdrawn.

Bank shares continued to go from strength to strength. The banking sector is often seen as a leader coming out of recession. Institutions were con-

steady at a year's high of 41.5p. It is thought to have bid just £1 million to retain its independent television franchise after being unopposed in

Hang Sen
From LULU Y
THE Hong Kong Stock Ex-

(£205 million) yesterday. Bro-

Airport accord helps Hang Seng to record

From LILU YU IN HONG KONG

Br Petrol	6,282	Ladbroke	3,983
Br Steel	5,137	Land Sec	755
Br Telecom	6,210	L&G	2,090
CAW	2,999	Lloyds	3,083

Yamaha	600	Orion	3,200
FMC Gp.	705	Wellcome	1,322
RTZ	1,244	Whitbird	988
R-Royce	3,570	Williams	4,188
Rothmans B	447	Wills Cor	795

NEW INTEREST RATES.

FOR PERSONAL LENDING
With effect from 17th July 1991

	Interest Rate % Monthly	Decreased by % Monthly	A.P.R. %
Midland Overdraft Rate	1.80	0.05	23.20
Orchard			
Overdraft	1.80	0.05	23.80
Reserve	1.90	0.20	25.30
Vector			
Overdraft £250 – £1,000	1.80	0.05	23.80
Reserve	1.90	0.20	25.30
Meridian Overdraft			
Up to £4,999	1.65	0.05	21.60
£5,000 – £9,999	1.55	0.05	20.20
£10,000+	1.45	0.05	18.80
Home Management Account	1.95	0.10	25.30

Standard Debit Interest Rate	Interest Rate % p.a.	Decreased by % p.a.	A.P.R.%
Quarterly Interest	32.20	0.60	35.90
Monthly Interest	32.20	0.60	37.40

With effect from 1st August 1991			
	Interest Rate % p.a.	Decreased by % p.a.	A.P.R.%
Home Loan Rate	11.95	0.60	12.60
Home Improvement Loan Rates:			
Loans sanctioned before 26 April 1989	13.95	0.60	14.60
Loans sanctioned after 26 April 1989	11.95	0.60	12.60
House Mortgage Rate	11.95	0.60	12.40

With effect from 14th August 1991			
	Interest Rate % p.a.	Decreased by % p.a.	A.P.R.%
Save and Borrow Account	24.50	1.50	26.60

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

	Net Interest % p.a.	Gross Interest % p.a.	Gross Interest (CAR) % p.a.
Save and Borrow Account	2.59	3.45	3.50

With effect from 16th July 1991			
Clients Premium Deposit Account	Net Interest % p.a.	Gross Interest % p.a.	Gross Interest (CAR) % p.a.
£25,000+	6.75	9.00	9.19
£100,000+	7.12	9.50	9.71

CREDIT AGREEMENTS WILL BE VARIED ACCORDINGLY



MIDLAND
The Listening Bank
MIDLAND BANK plc 27 POULTRY LONDON EC2P 2BX

RECENT ISSUES

[illegible]

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
July 6	July 19	October 10	October 21

Call options were taken out on: 10/7/61 Amstrad, Beazer, Brown & Jackson, Control Securities.

Puts: Barratt Devo, Control Securities.

Put & Call: Doctus.

Scots Law Report July 17 1991 Court of Session

Sheriff broke rules of natural justice

the tenant, to Bassetlaw District Council.

that the judge had held that the case came within section 88(1)(b) in that the mother was a

the tenancy" in paragraph (b) was not significant. It was clear that paragraph (b) was referring

When, therefore, the draftsman

in *R v O'Connor* (The Times July 10) the court allowed the prosecution appeal in the case of Allen.

Law Report July 17 1991 Court of Appeal

Wife with new tenancy was not successor to joint tenancy

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

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From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your daily dividend. If it matches the prize money stated on the back of your card, you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Close	Change	%
1	BP	Oil	245.00	+1.00	+0.41
2	British Telecom	Telecom	185.00	+1.00	+0.54
3	British Airways	Air	125.00	+1.00	+0.80
4	British Gas	Utilities	115.00	+1.00	+0.87
5	British Leyland	Automotive	105.00	+1.00	+0.95
6	British Overseas Airways	Air	95.00	+1.00	+1.05
7	British Petroleum	Oil	85.00	+1.00	+1.18
8	British Rail	Transport	75.00	+1.00	+1.33
9	British Steel	Metals	65.00	+1.00	+1.54
10	British Sugar	Food	55.00	+1.00	+1.82
11	British Water	Utilities	45.00	+1.00	+2.22
12	British Airways	Air	35.00	+1.00	+2.86
13	British Airways	Air	25.00	+1.00	+4.00
14	British Airways	Air	15.00	+1.00	+6.67
15	British Airways	Air	5.00	+1.00	+20.00

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £1,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

Two readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Miss M Lister, of London SW19, and Michael Brown, of Harrow, each receive £1,000.

BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Close Price Change %

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

No.	Company	Group	Close	Change	%
1	BP	Oil	245.00	+1.00	+0.41
2	British Telecom	Telecom	185.00	+1.00	+0.54
3	British Airways	Air	125.00	+1.00	+0.80
4	British Gas	Utilities	115.00	+1.00	+0.87
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12	British Airways	Air	35.00	+1.00	+2.86
13	British Airways	Air	25.00	+1.00	+4.00
14	British Airways	Air	15.00	+1.00	+6.67
15	British Airways	Air	5.00	+1.00	+20.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	Group	Close	Change	%
1	BP	Oil	245.00	+1.00	+0.41
2	British Telecom	Telecom	185.00	+1.00	+0.54
3	British Airways	Air	125.00	+1.00	+0.80
4	British Gas	Utilities	115.00	+1.00	+0.87
5	British Leyland	Automotive	105.00	+1.00	+0.95
6	British Overseas Airways	Air	95.00	+1.00	+1.05
7	British Petroleum	Oil	85.00	+1.00	+1.18
8	British Rail	Transport	75.00	+1.00	+1.33
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12	British Airways	Air	35.00	+1.00	+2.86
13	British Airways	Air	25.00	+1.00	+4.00
14	British Airways	Air	15.00	+1.00	+6.67
15	British Airways	Air	5.00	+1.00	+20.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	Group	Close	Change	%
1	BP	Oil	245.00	+1.00	+0.41
2	British Telecom	Telecom	185.00	+1.00	+0.54
3	British Airways	Air	125.00	+1.00	+0.80
4	British Gas	Utilities	115.00	+1.00	+0.87
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12	British Airways	Air	35.00	+1.00	+2.86
13	British Airways	Air	25.00	+1.00	+4.00
14	British Airways	Air	15.00	+1.00	+6.67
15	British Airways	Air	5.00	+1.00	+20.00

UNDATED

No.	Company	Group	Close	Change	%
1	BP	Oil	245.00	+1.00	+0.41
2	British Telecom	Telecom	185.00	+1.00	+0.54
3	British Airways	Air	125.00	+1.00	+0.80
4	British Gas	Utilities	115.00	+1.00	+0.87
5	British Leyland	Automotive	105.00	+1.00	+0.95
6	British Overseas Airways	Air	95.00	+1.00	+1.05
7	British Petroleum	Oil	85.00	+1.00	+1.18
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14	British Airways	Air	15.00	+1.00	+6.67
15	British Airways	Air	5.00	+1.00	+20.00

INDEX-LINKED

No.	Company	Group	Close	Change	%
1	BP	Oil	245.00	+1.00	+0.41
2	British Telecom	Telecom	185.00	+1.00	+0.54
3	British Airways	Air	125.00	+1.00	+0.80
4	British Gas	Utilities	115.00	+1.00	+0.87
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14	British Airways	Air	15.00	+1.00	+6.67
15	British Airways	Air	5.00	+1.00	+20.00

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No.	Company	Group	Close	Change	%
1	BP	Oil	245.00	+1.00	+0.41
2	British Telecom	Telecom	185.00	+1.00	+0.54
3	British Airways	Air	125.00	+1.00	+0.80
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5	British Leyland	Automotive	105.00	+1.00	+0.95
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14	British Airways	Air	15.00	+1.00	+6.67
15	British Airways	Air	5.00	+1.00	+20.00

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities reach record close

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began Monday. Dealings end July 26. Settlement day July 29. Settlement day August 5.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BREWERIES

No.	Company	Group	Close	Change	%
1	BP	Oil	245.00	+1.00	+0.41
2	British Telecom	Telecom	185.00	+1.00	+0.54
3	British Airways	Air	125.00	+1.00	+0.80
4	British Gas	Utilities	115.00	+1.00	+0.87
5	British Leyland	Automotive	105.00	+1.00	+0.95
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13	British Airways	Air	25.00	+1.00	+4.00
14	British Airways	Air	15.00	+1.00	+6.67
15	British Airways	Air	5.00	+1.00	+20.00

BUILDING, ROADS

No.	Company	Group	Close	Change	%
1	BP	Oil	245.00	+1.00	+0.41
2	British Telecom	Telecom	185.00	+1.00	+0.54
3	British Airways	Air	125.00	+1.00	+0.80
4	British Gas	Utilities	115.00	+1.00	+0.87
5	British Leyland	Automotive	105.00	+1.00	+0.95
6	British Overseas Airways	Air	95.00	+1.00	+1.05
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14	British Airways	Air	15.00	+1.00	+6.67
15	British Airways	Air	5.00	+1.00	+20.00

ELECTRICITY

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3	British Airways	Air	125.00	+1.00	+0.80
4	British Gas	Utilities	115.00	+1.00	+0.87
5	British Leyland	Automotive	105.00	+1.00	+0.95
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14	British Airways	Air	15.00	+1.00	+6.67
15	British Airways	Air	5.00	+1.00	+20.00

FINANCE, LAND

No.	Company	Group	Close	Change	%
1	BP	Oil	245.00	+1.00	+0.41
2	British Telecom	Telecom	185.00	+1.00	+0.54
3	British Airways	Air	125.00	+1.00	+0.80
4	British Gas	Utilities	115.00	+1.00	+0.87
5	British Leyland	Automotive	105.00	+1.00	+0.95
6	British Overseas Airways	Air	95.00	+1.00	+1.05
7	British Petroleum	Oil	85.00	+1.00	+1.18
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14	British Airways	Air	15.00	+1.00	+6.67
15	British Airways	Air	5.00	+1.00	+20.00

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

No.	Company	Group	Close	Change	%
1	BP	Oil	245.00	+1.00	+0.41
2	British Telecom	Telecom	185.00	+1.00	+0.54
3	British Airways	Air	125.00	+1.00	+0.80
4	British Gas	Utilities	115.00	+1.00	+0.87
5	British Leyland	Automotive	105.00	+1.00	+0.95
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15	British Airways	Air	5.00	+1.00	+20.00

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HOBSTONES

TENNIS

Seles breaks her cover to face the hungry pack

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

MONICA Seles is due to end her prolonged silence at a news conference in New Jersey today before she returns to the court for the first time in six weeks at the Patmark Tennis Classic at Ramapo College.

Seles has yet to say anything publicly about the injuries that forced her to withdraw from Wimbledon three days before the championships, but a statement released yesterday, nearly a month later, through her agents, International Management Group, said she had been suffering from "skin splits and a slight stress fracture in the left leg".

"I would also like to take this opportunity to clarify all the speculation and rumours," Seles's statement said. "Without dignifying any of the specific rumours, I would like to state definitively that I have had absolutely no problems other than a leg injury. My leg is now feeling fine, and I am very excited about playing tennis again."

Seles said she might have publicised her reasons earlier, but did not want to "make a statement with contradicting facts in it because I might have misled my fans and the public. Now I have a clear idea of what my injury is and how to prevent it from happening in the future. I feel comfortable speaking about it."

"The injury first occurred in March 1991 and at the French Open during practice I hit my left leg with my racket and re-injured the leg."

Whether that explanation will do anything to ease the embarrassment caused to the Women's Tennis Association by their No.1's mysterious absence remains to be seen. At the very least, an immediate statement, issued the day after her withdrawal and outlining the extent of the uncertainty over the injury, would have been a simple courtesy to Wimbledon and curtailed the more imaginative speculation.

Now, Seles will face a searching examination from

journalists, more than 150 of whom have descended on New Jersey.

The organisers of the Federation Cup will be as anxious as anyone to learn if the Australian and French Open champion is going to play for Yugoslavia in Nottingham next week.

Mark Petchey, aged 20, has been named in the five-man squad for Britain's Davis Cup tie against Austria in Manchester in September. Andrew Castle, who was dropped for the tie against Poland in May, returns, but Chris Wilkinson is left out by the captain, Tony Pickard.

Three juniors - Miles Macchagnan, Andrew Richardson and Mark Schofield - will also be attached to the squad. Britain have to win the tie, which starts at the Northern Lawn Tennis Club in Didsbury, Greater Manchester, on September 20, to return to the world group for the first time in four years.

Full Squads: J Seles, N Brown, A Castle, M Petchey, D Shepherd.



Net accord: Sue Mappin, the tournament director, takes time out from preparations for the Federation Cup at Nottingham next week

Mappin engenders the festival spirit

By ANDREW LONGMORE

THERE is a festival in Nottingham next week. Balloons, jugglers, pot-throwing, assault courses, bands, bicycles. Oh, yes, and some tennis as well. The 29th Federation Cup, to be precise.

The Federation Cup? It sounds like one of those obscure questions Bill Beaumont has to field on *Question of Sport*. "With what sport, Bill, do you associate the Federation Cup?" The answer is usually bowls or cycling. Yet, unlikely as it may seem, the Federation Cup this year is the biggest single team event in the history of tennis, with a record 56 national women's teams competing in qualifying and the main draw over the next ten days.

Even the people of Nottingham have had difficulty

coming to terms with the idea that Stiff Graf, Monica Seles and Jennifer Capriati, among others, will be performing in their local park. Nottingham did not exactly fit in with the success of recent venues for the Cup: Vancouver, Tokyo, Prague, Berlin, Melbourne, Atlanta, Nottingham.

"The local people couldn't believe that their city had been chosen for such a big event," Sue Mappin, the tournament director, said. It was not the only misconception Mappin has had to tackle. The event is sponsored by NEC and Mappin spent weeks persuading people it was going to be held at the University Park in Nottingham, not the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham.

It is to be hoped that recent advertising campaigns

have solved that identity crisis, but others remain. More than a few eyebrows were raised in the depths of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) at the thought of a major international event held outside greater London.

True to her own forthright woman-of-the-people image, which did not always endear her to her masters during her 11 years as women's national team manager, Mappin has defied accepted practice and ignored the doubters.

"I've always been concerned by the way we sell tennis in this country. If we want to get new people involved in the game we have to offer more than just tennis. That's not to make it a circus, but to encourage people to come along and have some fun."

"We could just have organised it for the regular

tennis fan, but the site is a public facility, so I wanted the public to enjoy it. It might not work, of course. Two men and a dog might turn up, but at least we've tried."

All the nations, from Taipei to the United States, the holders, have been adopted by local schools, so at least a band of flag-waving children is guaranteed. There is also a theme for each day of the main tournament, which starts on Monday: family day, children's day, Year of Sport day, Cliff Richard's day. On the festival court, there will be fast-track competitions and coaching sessions. Only bad weather can provide an excuse for not joining in.

"I remember county week here several years ago. It was exactly the same week and it rained the whole time. If that

happens, it will be a disaster and we will all drown ourselves in the Trent. But we'll have some fun whatever happens," Mappin adds.

The cost of staging the event is £1.4 million, which will leave a sizeable hole in the LTA's budget, but, at the end of the week, Nottingham will boast one of the best tennis centres in the country - 19 hardcourts, eight indoor courts - and, just possibly, the game will have found a new audience. The aim is to attract an average of 10,000 people a day, but success or failure will not be so clearly defined.

"I will judge by people's faces as they leave," Mappin says. "If they have enjoyed themselves so much they want to do something in tennis, then we have sold them the game. That's the goal."

SPORT FOR THE DISABLED

Courage on trial at Games

By JANE WYATT

GREAT Britain will field 116 competitors when 750 leading athletes from 41 countries arrive at the Loughborough Sports Centre this weekend for 12 days of Paralympic Games trials at the Courage Games.

Formerly known as the World Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Games, the event will be celebrating its fourth anniversary, and is boosted for the first time by the re-formed British Wheelchair Sports Foundation. United Arab Emirates, with a squad of four, will be newcomers, while the United States will send the largest foreign contingent, of 89.

The Americans are sending their best basketball team for years, in response to the high calibre of the other entrants.

Germany and the Netherlands are also fielding their best teams, and the home side has several members of the Great Britain squad that won the bronze medal at the recent European championships in Spain.

British gold medal hopefuls include Terry Hopkins in the shot put and Kevin Baker in the discus, who will be defending their world records in the shot put and discus in last month's National Wheelchair Games at Aylesbury.

On the track, strong performances are expected from Tani Grey, the Welsh sprinter who holds the national record in every distance from 100 metres to 1,500 metres, and Peter Carruthers, the former world record holder in the 200 metres. Chris Hallam and David

Holding will join more than 200 other wheelchair athletes for the combined running and chair 10 kilometres race at the Silverstone circuit.

Drivers who use hand controls and who have always wanted to try hill climb and sprint driving can do so at the Hill Climb and Sprint Association (HSA) Omega Pistons regional and services sprint, at Carborough near Lichfield on August 25. The RAC motor sports association has approved a new category to cover the use of hand controls and the HSA has arranged a one-day licence for candidates. Those interested can attend a free instruction day at Carborough on Friday. Details are available from Jan Rainey on 0386 47471.

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The Times guide to the new British challenge for the Open Championship which begins tomorrow

Richardson hopes to profit from Ballesteros's lead

By MITCHELL PLATT
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

STEVE Richardson will be making his first appearance in the Open Championship at Royal Birkdale tomorrow, but he has only one player above him in the Volvo European Tour Order of Merit. Severiano Ballesteros has won two tournaments and £218,241; Richardson has also won twice, and with £212,507 he will join the Spaniard in the Europe Ryder Cup team.

Richardson, aged 24, does not see the comparisons ending there. Like the young Ballesteros, he is blessed with an almost fatal attraction to belt the ball into oblivion. Blessed? Well, Ballesteros earned worldwide acclaim when, in 1976, he attacked Royal Birkdale and came within a whisker of winning the Open.

It transformed the Spaniard's life. That week he had walked unrecognised along Lord Street, Southampton's Champs Elyses, rubbing shoulders with holidaymakers and golf aficionados alike.

Richardson, despite his wins in the Girona and Portuguese Opens, believes it will be much the same for him this week unless, of course, he does what Ballesteros did. "I can't expect people to know me," he said. "I haven't won in front of the British public with the television cameras on. It is my next goal; something I must do."

"I know it would change my life if I won this week. I'm confident. I think and hope I play well. I started to strike it well again last week, after a bit of a lull. I'm good enough to win. I can win if I play to the top of my ability. But I would have to play my very best."

Three years ago, Richardson was not considered good enough to be an England



international. He first played golf at the age of nine, disliked the game, but succumbed to a natural talent. His father, John, also happened to be the club professional at Lee-on-the-Solent in Hampshire.

Richardson Sr was born in St Andrews, where in 1970 he finished thirteenth behind Jack Nicklaus in the Open. "My first thought has got to be to do better than Dad," Richardson said. "I've tried five times to qualify for the Open so it's nice to have the chance to beat him at last. I suspect I'm going to feel the pressure but I won't know until we get started."

"I was a bit nervous in the Girona Open when I first had a winning chance. The stomach knotted; I was churning over with the butterflies. But I haven't had shaking hands for a long time. I did as an amateur."

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Richardson: confident

Richardson won the English Amateur in 1989 at Royal St George's. It was too late in the year for him to be considered for the Walker Cup so he turned professional. He brought with him an unusual grip and an unorthodox putting stroke. Yet he hits the ball the proverbial country mile, and strikes his putts with authority by taking the putter head outside the line and cutting the ball at the hole. He is neither impressed nor impressed by mechanics, admires the great players, but adamant he'll learn from them without changing his game.

"I've played with Seve and Nick (Faldo) this year and with Jack Nicklaus," he said. "It's been an education. Jack is the complete professional. I learned so much playing just two rounds with him at the Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village in May. For instance I saw him looking at my spike marks, and he told me that it gave him a guide on which way the grain went on the greens. It was a real experience."

"Nick never makes mistakes, he is very disciplined. Seve is more flamboyant; he hits a lot of brilliant shots but he hits a lot of wild ones. They're both friendly. I'm not in awe of either of them. I've learned to compete with them. I've also learned I can beat them. I've come out with a lower score than Nick the three times I've been paired with him."

Now Richardson is prepared to throw caution to the wind. "I like links golf," he said. "I like the wind. I like to go for it. I like to feel nervous because it makes me more aggressive. And I like to attack." There is a lot of Severiano Ballesteros in Richardson. We might find out how much this week.

Golfer chips in for good cause

By JOHN HENNESSY

PROFESSIONAL golf is big business nowadays, and one can understand reservations about the huge sums of money lavished on a pampered few for giving their names to products, which often have no connection with the game, and for demanding £50,000 or more merely for hitting the ball off the first tee.

But there are other, humanitarian, forces at play, usually motivated by concern for the physically handicapped, the underprivileged and the young. Often it is a matter of doing good by stealth, so far as a high-profile lifestyle will allow.

Nick Faldo falls into this laudable category. Tim Simpson, a seasoned American professional here for the Open Championship at Royal Birkdale this week, is another. He has lent his weight behind a body with the rather daunting and self-explanatory title of Center for the Missing and the Exploited, based in Virginia.

Simpson's way is to use his public position specifically to draw attention to missing children. In February he began a programme of attaching to his golf bag an enlarged photograph of a child missing locally, wherever his travels, in the United States and farther afield, take him.

An early success exceeded his most optimistic expectations. Playing in the Masters in April near his home town, Atlanta, he carried the photograph of Shannon Minor, who had been abducted eight years earlier. A television watcher, recognising the child in spite of the passage of years, placed an anonymous call to the centre in Virginia and young Shannon was returned home.

"That was a wonderful moment," Simpson said. It was only his sixth attempt at reuniting a child with his parents.

This week Simpson's beneficence falls upon Lee Boxell, a teenager who vanished from his Carlsbad home in September 1988.

"I've always loved kids. They're so very innocent and vulnerable," Simpson said.

For all his soft centre, these are not the words of a sporting wet. At 5ft 10in and more than 13 stone, he has a formidable presence.

His special inspiration comes from a harrowing experience when his wife, Kathy, nearly lost Katie, their



Reaching the public: Simpson gets the message across at Royal Birkdale

second child, now aged four, at birth. Happily, Katie survives and is now a bouncy, bouncing four-year-old, but a lasting tragedy fell upon the family last year when, Kathy's brother was stabbed to death

in Atlanta during the Christmas holidays. Simpson visits children's hospitals wherever his golfing commitments take him, but he does not flaunt his charitable instincts.

"I don't do it for accolade, I don't call press conferences," he said. "I just want to put something back into society." The sentiment may seem cloying, but he speaks with transparent sincerity.

Tempered Montgomerie simply happy to join in

By MITCHELL PLATT

COLIN Montgomerie knows that to win an Open Championship, he might first have to lose one. "It would be nice to have the opportunity to blow it this week," he said.

Montgomerie's outlook might astonish some people, but it should not, for he is not one to mince words. The Scot has galvanised his career this season by securing a place in Europe's Ryder Cup team, but with only one win in four years as a professional there is still a lack of experience.

"I've been in contention more often in European Tour events this season so I'm becoming more used to the pressure," he said. "I was frightened when my name first started going up on the leader board. I wondered what I was doing there and I would immediately drop shots."

"I'm in control now but the Open is different. It took me seven years before I qualified, which was last year at St Andrews. I made the halfway cut but somehow I expected I would because of the time it had taken to get there. I'll get off to a good start over the first nine holes this week then we will see what I can do."

Montgomerie played in the English Open at Royal Birkdale in 1988, when he was rookie of the Year, and regards the course a fair test. It should suit his game, especially if the wind blows, because his natural shot is to flight the ball low.

This year did not begin well for Montgomerie. His mother died in January and his concentration on the course waned. It was not until the Volvo PGA championship in May that he found himself consumed by the game again. In the last round he was paired with Nick Faldo, whom he outscored, and then came a

play-off against Ballesteros, which the Spaniard won with a five-iron to three feet.

Yet Montgomerie had managed his game well under pressure and showed magnanimity in defeat. It was as well he did. He had been made aware during a pre-tournament press conference that he was the executive director of the PGA European Tour, that he owed it to himself to clean up his act. There was a chink in Montgomerie's armour and he could not camouflage his frustrations. That bank holiday weekend a nation would watch a Montgomerie more mindful of his responsibilities.

"I had got hot-tempered on the course and Ken pointed out that it was about time Colin Montgomerie realised where Colin Montgomerie was going," he said. "He understood the position, he knew I had been thinking about my dad and my brother more than that year than my golf."

"But I had to admit to a tendency to get down on myself when things went wrong. I do get angry. It's brought on by the

Montgomerie played in the English Open at Royal Birkdale in 1988, when he was rookie of the Year, and regards the course a fair test. It should suit his game, especially if the wind blows, because his natural shot is to flight the ball low. This year did not begin well for Montgomerie. His mother died in January and his concentration on the course waned. It was not until the Volvo PGA championship in May that he found himself consumed by the game again. In the last round he was paired with Nick Faldo, whom he outscored, and then came a

Montgomerie: in control

Norman provides daunting debut test

STEVEN Richardson will hit the first ball of his Open Championship career tomorrow morning under the scrutiny of two pairs of critical and famous eyes (Mel Webb writes).

When the draw for the first two rounds was announced yesterday, Richardson, a certainty for the European Ryder Cup test to play against the United States in September, found himself thrust into the company of Payne Stewart and Greg Norman, both winners of

major championships and both experienced hands in the steady atmosphere of Open Championships.

Richardson, playing in the Championship for the first time in five attempts, was undaunted by the news.

"It's a smashing draw for me," he said. "It will certainly get the adrenaline going. I've never played with either of them before, and although in some ways it might have been better to have been a bit more

low profile to start with, I'm not complaining."

Richardson, who has played so brilliantly this year, winning twice and banking more than £200,000 in prize-money, will undoubtedly learn much from playing with Stewart and Norman. They, on the other hand, may know a good deal more about the young professional from Lee-on-the-Solent in Hampshire by Friday evening.

Nick Faldo, the favourite, is joined by Wayne Grady, the US

PGA champion and Jay Don Blake, of the United States, while Ian Woosnam will play with Tom Watson, the last man to win an Open at Royal Birkdale, in 1983, and Eduardo Romero, of Argentina.

Severiano Ballesteros has an undemanding draw — he goes out at 1.10pm on Thursday and 8.20am on Friday accompanied by Steve Jones, of the United States, and Johnny Miller, winner of the 1976 Championship at Royal Birkdale.

Stewart adds dash of colour

By MEL WEBB

THE mobile mailshot, the perambulating poster, the living logo — Payne Stewart is all of these, and more. He is also arguably the best golfer in the United States at the moment. By the end of this Open Championship week he intends to settle the argument once and for all.

For some time the amiable Missourian has had a contract with the National Football League. The deal obliges Stewart to deck himself out, plus fours and all, in the colours of NFL clubs. It is worth several hundred thousand dollars a year; for that much money he can almost be forgiven for offending the sensibilities of all but the terminally colour blind.

It is fair to say that there was a time when Stewart was celebrated more for his working clothes than for the work he did in them. He had the reputation of being a solid and well respected professional who believed his gaudy appearance was a golf game that was, well, slightly dull. The antsy American journeymen, if ever there was.

There was one further small reservation. When the pressure was on in the big tournaments, claimed his critics, he was always found wanting. Payne Stewart, they would say, "Good guy. Wears those bright knickerbockers. Chokes."

Harsh, maybe, but unfair? Possibly not — too often, it seemed, the show was over for Stewart long before the fat lady came on for her big number.

However, he put a small dent in that flawed image at Kemper Lakes in 1989 when a burst of birdies on the home stretch went hand in hand with a spectacular collapse by Mike Reid; the result was Stewart's first major title, the US PGA championship.

The doubting few who were left after that performance were silenced last month when he won the US Open at Hazeltine National after an 18-hole play-off against Scott Simpson.

Stewart, aged 34, has hardly taken the conventional route to Royal Birkdale. Since he beat Simpson, for example, he has paid two visits to Europe to play in the Irish and Monte Carlo Opens on either side of a hectic week spent at home in Orlando, Florida, sifting through a pile of mail.

He took last week off, but even then could not stay away from the game — he spent the time playing five of Scotland's best links courses with three pals and, he says, "closing a few pubs along the way."

All this has been achieved, remember, against a background of pain and discomfort from a back injury that at one time threatened to keep him out of action for the entire season.

The trouble was a damaged disc, which, together with bone fragments that were pressing on a nerve, caused severe back and neck pain and a loss of strength in his right arm.

For a spell he wore a surgical collar that had to be taken off while all the while taking medication. He returned, twinges and all, three months ago to defend the Heritage Classic at Hilton Head Island, and has been keeping pace with busy schedule since. Even now he has to wear a back brace to get him through 18 holes. The right preparation for an Open Championship? Surely not.

Stewart, twice second in the Open, disagrees. "I like this golf course," he says. "It's straightforward — everything is there in front of you. To do well here you need to be able to work the ball both ways, and you need to put well. I think I have those qualities, and I think I can win." We have been warned.

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Transport and ticket details

HOW TO GET TO BIRKDALE: By train: from London (not direct) to the Merseyside northern line. The pay gates are 400 yards from the station. There is a frequent service (augmented for the Open) from Liverpool and Manchester areas. By road: M6 from the north to junction 26; then take the A57 to follow A58 signs. M6 from the south, then the M52 and M57.

TICKETS FOR THE OPEN: Today there is unlimited entry at the pay gates, price £7 for senior citizens and children. From tomorrow to Friday prices are £14 and £7. All grandstand seats are free to the public, with the exception of 1,000 seats already sold for the 18th green. There are 6,000 seats available at the 18th on a first-come, first-served basis.

Watson takes chance to correct the record

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Watson gets his chance to put the record straight against Chris Eubank next month. After Watson's controversial defeat on points by Eubank at Earls Court last month, the two met again on September 21 at Tottenham Hotspur football ground. This time there should be no excuses, least of all about weight problems.

Eubank, who like Watson is having trouble making the middleweight limit, is giving up his World Boxing Organisation (WBO) middleweight title and the two men will be facing each other in the heavier super-middleweight division for the vacant WBO title.

"I demand this chance to put

the record straight," Watson said on hearing that Barry Hearn, the London promoter, had decided to waste no time in arranging the rematch.

Although on the judges' cards at Earls Court, Eubank clearly won the bout with two judges giving it to the Brighton man and the third making it a draw, the decision was booed by the crowd of 13,000 and Hearn agreed that there were grounds for a second meeting.

Hearn expects a crowd of 35,000. Watson and Eubank could share a purse of £500,000 equally. Eubank's decision to move up a division gives him a chance to become only the second Briton to win world titles at different weights.

ICE SKATING

Cousins joins the trail of British exiles

STEVEN Cousins, like John Curry and Robin Cousins (no relation) before him, has moved to the United States for training (John Hennessy writes). But, unlike his compatriots, the British champion remains under domestic control.

Cousins is now established at Ketchikan, Idaho, under the eye of Alex McGowan, the man who guided Debi Thomas, of the United States, to the women's world title in 1986. Cousins had been taught at Des Moines, north Wales, by Donna Gateley.

It is unclear if Cousins will stay with McGowan after Christmas for the European championships in Lausanne, the Winter Olympics in Albertville and the world championships in San Francisco.

BRIDGE

Collins survives loss of regular partner

By ALBERT DORMER

PATRICK Collins had mixed fortune in the Gold Cup and Crookfords Cup, England's two premier championships, which were held over the last two weekends.

Collins's regular partner, Peter Law, was unavailable, so he was forced to play with a different substitute in each event. Before the finals he had not played with either.

On the first weekend, when he was partnered with Phil Bailey, Collins's team lost in the quarter-finals, to the eventual winners, in Crookfords, it was a different story. Playing an eight-team round-robin with Malcolm Lewis and team colleagues Stuart and Gerald Tredinnick, Collins's team went through the

competition undefeated, just managing to beat the Midlands team, which was captained by Roger Bryant, by a narrow margin.

Collins is a previous winner of Crookfords, but it was the first major national title for the other members of the team. Moreover, it was the first time for more than a decade that members of the same family had been on the winning team in a national event.

RESULTS: Gold Cup Semi-Finals: Nigel vs. Steve (4-3), Peter vs. John (4-3), Phil vs. Alan (4-3), Stuart vs. Gerald (4-3). Crookfords Cup: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 168th, 169th, 170th, 171st, 172nd, 173rd, 174th, 175th, 176th, 177th, 178th, 179th, 180th, 181st, 182nd, 183rd, 184th, 185th, 186th, 187th, 188th, 189th, 190th, 191st, 192nd, 193rd, 194th, 195th, 196th, 197th, 198th, 199th, 200th, 201st, 202nd, 203rd, 204th, 205th, 206th, 207th, 208th, 209th, 210th, 211st, 212th, 213th, 214th, 215th, 216th, 217th, 218th, 219th, 220th, 221st, 222nd, 223rd, 224th, 225th, 226th, 227th, 228th, 229th, 230th, 231st, 232nd, 233rd, 234th, 235th, 236th, 237th, 238th, 239th, 240th, 241st, 242nd, 243rd, 244th, 245th, 246th, 247th, 248th, 249th, 250th, 251st, 252nd, 253rd, 254th, 255th, 256th, 257th, 258th, 259th, 260th, 261st, 262nd, 263rd, 264th, 265th, 266th, 267th, 268th, 269th, 270th, 271st, 272nd, 273rd, 274th, 275th, 276th, 277th, 278th, 279th, 280th, 281st, 282nd, 283rd, 284th, 285th, 286th, 287th, 288th, 289th, 290th, 291st, 292nd, 293rd, 294th, 295th, 296th, 297th, 298th, 299th, 300th, 301st, 302nd, 303rd, 304th, 305th, 306th, 307th, 308th, 309th, 310th, 311st, 312th, 313th, 314th, 315th, 316th, 317th, 318th, 319th, 320th, 321st, 322nd, 323rd, 324th, 325th, 326th, 327th, 328th, 329th, 330th, 331st, 332nd, 333rd, 334th, 335th, 336th, 337th, 338th, 339th, 340th, 341st, 342nd, 343rd, 344th, 345th, 346th, 347th, 348th, 349th, 350th, 351st, 352nd, 353rd, 354th, 355th, 356th, 357th, 358th, 359th, 360th, 361st, 362nd, 363rd, 364th, 365th, 366th, 367th, 368th, 369th, 370th, 371st, 372nd, 373rd, 374th, 375th, 376th, 377th, 378th, 379th, 380th, 381st, 382nd, 383rd, 384th, 385th, 386th, 387th, 388th, 389th, 390th, 391st, 392nd, 393rd, 394th, 395th, 396th, 397th, 398th, 399th, 400th, 401st, 402nd, 403rd, 404th, 405th, 406th, 407th, 408th, 409th, 410th, 411st, 412th, 413th, 414th, 415th, 416th, 417th, 418th, 419th, 420th, 421st, 422nd, 423rd, 424th, 425th, 426th, 427th, 428th, 429th, 430th, 431st, 432nd, 433rd, 434th, 435th, 436th, 437th, 438th, 439th, 440th, 441st, 442nd, 443rd, 444th, 445th, 446th, 447th, 448th, 449th, 450th, 451st, 452nd, 453rd, 454th, 455th, 456th, 457th, 458th, 459th, 460th, 461st, 462nd, 463rd, 464th, 465th, 466th, 467th, 468th, 469th, 470th, 471st, 472nd, 473rd, 474th, 475th, 476th, 477th, 478th, 479th, 480th, 481st, 482nd, 483rd, 484th, 485th, 486th, 487th, 488th, 489th, 490th, 491st, 492nd, 493rd, 494th, 495th, 496th, 497th, 498th, 499th, 500th, 501st, 502nd, 503rd, 504th, 505th, 506th, 507th, 508th, 509th, 510th, 511st, 512th, 513th, 514th, 515th, 516th, 517th, 518th, 519th, 520th, 521st, 522nd, 523rd, 524th, 525th, 526th, 527th, 528th, 529th, 530th, 531st, 532nd, 533rd, 534th, 535th, 536th, 537th, 538th, 539th, 540th, 541st, 542nd, 543rd, 544th, 545th, 546th, 547th, 548th, 549th, 550th, 551st, 552nd, 553rd, 554th, 555th, 556th, 557th, 558th, 559th, 560th, 561st, 562nd, 563rd, 564th, 565th, 566th, 567th, 568th, 569th, 570th, 571st, 572nd, 573rd, 574th, 575th, 576th, 577th, 578th, 579th, 580th, 581st, 582nd, 583rd, 584th, 585th, 586th, 587th, 588th, 589th, 590th, 591st, 592nd, 593rd, 594th, 595th, 596th, 597th, 598th, 599th, 600th, 601st, 602nd, 603rd, 604th, 605th, 606th, 607th, 608th, 609th, 610th, 611st, 612th, 613th, 614th, 615th, 616th, 617th, 618th, 619th, 620th, 621st, 622nd, 623rd, 624th, 625th, 626th, 627th, 628th, 629th, 630th, 631st, 632nd, 633rd, 634th, 635th, 636th, 637th, 638th, 639th, 640th, 641st, 642nd, 643rd, 644th, 645th, 646th, 647th, 648th, 649th, 650th, 651st, 652nd, 653rd, 654th, 655th, 656th, 657th, 658th, 659th, 660th, 661st, 662nd, 663rd, 664th, 665th, 666th, 667th, 668th, 669th, 670th, 671st, 6

Hampshire benefit from apparent cup hangover

Gower outshines costly Botham as Stewart looks on

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

PORTSMOUTH (Worcestershire won last; first day of three) Gloucestershire won 225 for seven wickets against Surrey

WHEN you are without a championship win in mid-July and you are put in on a notoriously lively pitch against an attack boasting six internationals, you do not confidently budget for scoring 172 without loss inside the first two hours.

This, however, was the remarkable progress made by Hampshire yesterday against a Worcestershire side who initially bowled as if their Benson and Hedges Cup celebrations had taken a severe toll. Their batting, at the tail end of the day, was no more impressive.

Paul Terry and Chris Smith were the early beneficiaries and, until they were divided, the rare prospect remained of more than 200 runs in the first session.

It was a pace which could not realistically be maintained but each succeeding session produced an innings of quality, first from Gower and then from James, to ensure a formidable total on a ground which traditionally hosts few draws.

Micky Stewart, the England team manager, stayed until tea before leaving for Guildford.

and the continuing improvement in Gower's form must have accompanied him up the A3. More so, certainly, than any evidence he may have been seeking for Ian Botham's recall. The big fellow did not have one of his more suspicious days.

Botham was called upon for the thirteenth over, indicative of some wild new-ball operations by Dilley and Radford. He was rested, to put it politely, after the fifteenth, with figures of nought for 17 from his two overs. Arguably, he was fortunate to have gone for so few, and his gesticulating protests to Neale, suggesting the wind was not helping him, hardly forgave a stream of long hops.

Apart from putting down a catch at slip, when Terry was 49, and experimenting with a pair of gaudy, Agassi-style sunglasses, no more was seen of Botham until the 86th over, when he returned for an evening spell which brought him three flustering wickets, acclaimed with self-mocking gyrations. Durham are keen to pursue their interest in him but, on this showing, Stewart and England may not be.

The prospect of Illingworth joining the one-cap brigade did not diminish, either. The occasional ball did bounce and turn but Illingworth failed

to make the best use of it and the case for Tufnell must be increasingly hard to ignore. However, Hampshire may ultimately regret not playing more than one of their spin bowlers.

Of the morning's 175 runs, 110 came from boundaries. Terry struck 15 fours in his fluent 87 and Chris Smith was only slightly more pedestrian as he extended his first-class aggregate for the season to 1,362 at an average of almost 70. England would have to consider him if he wanted it enough; with a job awaiting him in Australia, it appears he does not.

Nicholas dallied 18 overs for nine, but Gower was in positive mode from the outset. There was the occasional blenheim, as there always will be, but there were also some scintillating strokes. Twice, off the back foot, he beat a sweeper on the cover boundary despite giving him no more than ten yards' width. His fifty came out of 67, from 55 balls, and his fall, to a sliced drive against Hick, dismayed the sunbathing crowd.

As compensation they saw a worthy 84 from another left-hander, James, and some lower-order slogging before Worcestershire lost Lord and Illingworth too in a furious last over from Aqib Javed.

Waqar is on song for Surrey

By JOHN WOODCOCK

GUILDFORD (first day of three) Gloucestershire won 225 for seven wickets against Surrey

IT WAS Gloucestershire's turn to feel the full force of Waqar Younis' bowling yesterday. For the sixth time this season he took five or more wickets in an innings, although his first two spells were barren. At the close of play Gloucestershire had reached 225 for seven, which was near enough what they were worth.

Lying seventh in the championship, with matches in hand over five of the counties ahead of them, Surrey are quite handily placed. But where they will be without Waqar I shudder to think. Murphy gets a few past the bat; but Martin Bicknell is out, anyway until the end of the month, with a dislocated shoulder, and, although Medcote offers some variety, it is his lot to be playing under one of the game's great trumblers. Greig bowled and bowled himself yesterday before giving Medcote anything of a chance.

In keeping Waqar waiting until after lunch for his first wicket, Gloucestershire laid their luck. Having looked to all the world to be leg-before to a full toss in Waqar's second over, Hodgson was then dropped at slip in Waqar's third. But Scott and Hodgson went on to add 105 in 43 overs for Gloucestershire's first wicket, and it was just as well they did. In no time at all the score was 130 for five with Waqar in full cry. But Wright played a dogged captain's part and came more freely in the last hour than in any other.

Waqar really is very good. He gets on with it, pitches a fuller length than most fast bowlers and allows practically nothing to slide away down the leg side. He worked Hodgson, Russell and Lawrence, and had just had Lloyd's leg-before when he made his customary disappearance, this time with cramp.

The morning was grey and an hour was lost to rain in the afternoon. By the evening the sun was out and the ground can never have looked jollier. It is greatly improved by the arc of tents at the railway end, and the trees, planted many years ago, to screen the trains, are splendid. As for the outfield, it has the thickest, greenest mat of grass I ever saw - and that is counter-productive. Spectators like to see the ball going to the boundary, and not struggling to make progress.

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Byas shines again at Scarborough

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

DAVID Byas, the Yorkshire left-hander who was awarded his county cap at Scarborough on Sunday, celebrated with a career-best score of 135 against Lancashire there yesterday.

Byas, whose previous highest (117) was also made at Scarborough, against Kent two years ago, shared partnerships of 115 with Moxon for the second wicket and 150 with Blakey for the third. He hit 20 fours in an innings lasting 291 minutes.

It was also a day to remember for another Yorkshireman, Richard Sladdin, a left-arm spinner from Halifax, who was making his debut for Derbyshire. After some harsh treatment from Blakey, Sladdin landed picked up the wickets of Robinson and Gough, Yorkshire, who put in a picked-up maximum batting points for the loss of only five wickets.

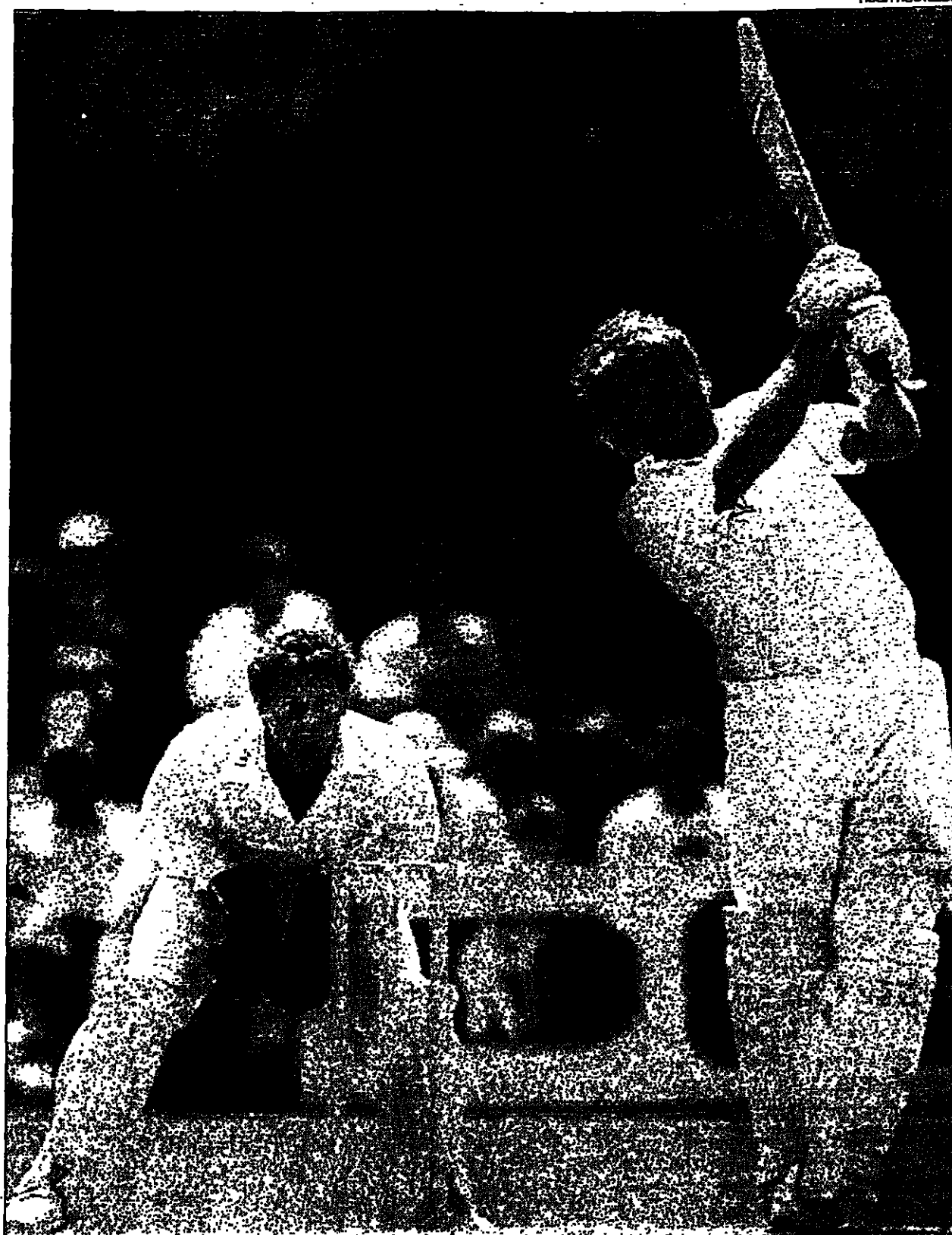
Chris Tavaré was in unusually lively mood for Somerset against Sussex after the visitors had been inserted at Hove. He needed only 120 balls for his third century of the season and

98 of his 134 runs came from boundary strokes. Most of the other batsmen were out of sorts, however, and it was left to the last-wicket pair, Trump and Craven, to secure the fourth batting point.

Exeter, striving to make up ground on the leaders, Warwickshire, made a fine start at Trent Bridge, Lancashire, with all wickets in hand, are 413 runs behind Nottinghamshire.

THE last thing Lancashire wanted, debated as they must have been after last Sunday's defeat in the Benson and Hedges Cup final and with Atherton suffering from pelvic trouble, was to lose the toss on a pitch which may not go the distance and then run up against Derek Randall at his peak and most destructive. Nor did they much care for the way Paul Johnson short-arm jabbed his way to 71.

The unkindest cut of all, however, and perhaps the least expected, was the shattering of their attack by the left-handed Paul Pollard, whose century out of an exceptional 185 for two



Keeping up the average Chris Smith hits a six off the bowling of Graeme Hick

Pollard turns into a plunderer

By JACK BAILEY

TRENT BRIDGE (first day of three) Nottinghamshire won 225 for seven wickets against Lancashire, with all wickets in hand, are 413 runs behind Nottinghamshire

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before lunch and 145 runs in all set Nottinghamshire along a headlong path which brought them 428 runs by 5.45pm. There was time to give their opponents a torrid few overs, barely survived by Fowler and Mendis.

Pollard is not noted for the speed of his scoring but here his pace was almost frenetic and Nottinghamshire's fortunes, despite one or two mishaps in mid-afternoon, were swept along with and beyond him. It was almost as if an inherent mistrust of the pitch decided Pollard and his headmen to gather round while they may.

When two wickets had fallen to West in the 15th over of the day and Notts had 61 runs on the board, Lancashire must have felt that they had not done too badly. Wasim aside, they had not bowled well, but it was about par for the course. What happened next certainly was

not. For Pollard, fed too often with the shortish ball on or outside the off-stump, featured a rasping square cut among other delightful strokes, raced to his century from 104 balls in just under two hours.

He shared with Johnson a partnership which yielded 159 from 38 overs.

Johnson's part in all this strange behaviour at the beginning of a three-day match included two long straight sixes off Yates, the young Lancashire off-spinner. His dismissal by one that Wasim moved away from him, heralded a period of comparative calm. Randall took some time to find his feet and early on was all at sea against Wasim; Pollard, as if realising what he had done and unsure of the consequences, also eased down.

It was not long, though, before Randall had found his feet and

although he lost Pollard, after making his championship best, Crawley and Stephenson while one run was scored he was soon in the sort of form which had taken him to an average for the season of over 73 in this Indian Summer of his. Now, he moved into everyone, dictating by his footwork, both line and length, even to Wasim. In two-and-a-half hours he hit 16 fours and a six.

Like Wasim, Yates went for a bowler's 100. Wasim had the consolation of five wickets, but Yates kept one end going for much of the day, bowling nearly 35 overs without reward. This against three batsmen at the height of their powers. Hughes may have felt that he had no choice but to keep Yates going after DeFreitas had left the field before tea with a swollen right knee, and it was all part of a bowler's education.

Butcher assumes Morris's stage

By RICHARD STREETON

SWANSEA (first day of three) Glamorgan won 225 for seven wickets in hand, are 209 runs behind Glamorgan

IN GLORIOUS sunshine the gods of cricket were in capricious mood at St Helen's yesterday. Every enthusiastic in Wales was willing Hugh Morris to make runs against the West Indians and force himself into the England Test side. Morris, though, made his first night of the season and it was Alan Butcher, with an admirable 94, who held the Glamorgan innings together.

Butcher was fortunate with several streaky shots through the slips, but used his forearms to punch the ball all round the cricket and finished with 14 fours. Butcher, who held himself back until No. 6, batted for 134 hours and scored his runs out of 157 added. His best support came from Dale, who batted resolutely for just over four hours.

Morris played a maiden from Patterson before he was dismissed in the third over by the first ball he faced from Ambrose. Touring teams tend to pull out the stops against aspiring Test candidates.

Morris pushed forward and edged the ball as Ambrose slanted one away. It flew low to second slip where Hooper juggled with the catch before Lara at first slip completed it. Morris joins a long list of players Ambrose has proved too good for this season. This abrupt failure, though, was all the worse as Arthur Milton, one of the

England selectors' regional "scouts" was present.

A slow pitch failed to stifle the four fast bowlers, used in short stints, though with 41 no-balls they were profligate even by their own standards. Ambrose, who finished with five for 56, bowled eight, Patterson nine, Anthony 14, Marshall six and even Hooper four.

Glamorgan were 60 for four when Butcher came in. James was caught low by Williams; Maynard top-edged a hook; and Cottee was held at third slip. Dale helped to add 126 in 35 overs for the fifth wicket before he fell to a brilliant diving catch by Richardson at second slip.

Haynes and Lambert took the West Indians to 43 without loss in reply.

Butcher: admirable 94

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Butcher: admirable 94

FOOTBALL

Clubs' try to avoid court case thwarted

By PETER BALL

THE meeting of first-division clubs at Luton today is almost certain to hear that their attempts to avoid the court cases next week between the Football League and the Football Association have failed. The second part of last week's approach to the second-division clubs has proved more fruitful, and a meeting with the second-division representatives takes place at today's meeting.

Whether that meeting will be productive is more questionable. The second-division representatives, George Forbes (Newcastle United), Leslie Kew (Bristol City) and John Dennis (Barnsley), are for the moment mandated to represent the remaining 71 clubs in the Football League to explore the possibility of keeping the League together.

Within the second division there are three competing voices, with the largest group still hoping for compromise, another ready to fight and a third advocating an attempt to join the first division in the breakaway under the FA's umbrella. The FA has shown some sympathy for the latter position, but four of its five leading advocates (Millwall, Brighton, Watford, Bristol City and Leicester City) are by nature third-division rather than first-division clubs and they are unlikely to appeal to the first division as soul mates.

Although some first-division clubs are known to believe that Arthur Sandford's proposals for four autonomous divisions within the Football League could give them all that they want, that outcome still seems unlikely. Their chairman and spokesman, Rick Parry, is employed by the Football Association "to assist with the formation of the Premier League" and he insists that he believes change is required outside the League.

In spite of the first division's reluctance, the court cases need to be used for the court cases to be used to establish the ground rules. The Football League has asked for complete disclosure for the court case, which means all the relevant FA documents have to be made available to it, and it is suspected that this may be behind the club's eagerness for the cases not to go to court.

Forest in change of target

NOTTINGHAM Forest, having missed out in the race to sign Dean Saunders, are likely to make a £2 million bid for the Millwall forward, Teddy Sheringham.

"We are seeking permission from Millwall to speak to him," Ron Fenton, the assistant manager of Forest, said. "He is a class player with exceptional all-round ability and we have always rated him very highly. If £2 million is the going rate, we will have to pay it. The transfer market at the moment is all about supply and demand."

Sheringham recently turned down a move to Blackburn Rovers because he wants to play in the first division.

Les Sealey's chances of a move to Aston Villa increased yesterday when the Midlands club sold the goalkeeper, Les Butler, to Barnsley. The fee, set by a Football League transfer stipulation, could be worth up to £215,000 depending on appearances. Sealey, wanted by Villa as an understudy to Nigel Spink, has been given a free transfer by Manchester United. United are hoping to finalise the signing of the Danish international goalkeeper, Peter Schmeichel, who is valued at £750,000.

Manchester City, meanwhile, are in line for a £300,000 cash windfall after the tribunal ordered Norwich City to pay a club record £925,000 to Port Vale for the forward, Darren Beckett. Vale signed Beckett for £15,000 from Maine Road for £15,000 ago, with the club agreeing to limit any future transfer fee. Crystal Palace must pay Swansea City £275,000 for Chris Coleman.

Don Howe returned to Tottenham as first-team coach under Ray Harford yesterday, three years after unemployment in their FA Cup final victory over Liverpool. Howe left to take charge of Queens Park Rangers in November 1989, but was dismissed at the end of the season. The former Arsenal coach had been linked with the managerial vacancy at Charlton Athletic.

African party to review ban

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - A Confederation of African Football (CAF) delegation arrives in South Africa today to assess prospects for ending a 24-year ban on participation in international competition.

Solomon Morewa, general secretary of the non-racial South African Football Association (SAFA), told the South African Press Association: "I know they will be impressed with the non-racism we have achieved."

The CAF executive is due to decide in September whether to recommend South Africa's return.

S Africa draws Lloyd

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - Clive Lloyd, the former West Indies captain, will coach young players on a three-week visit to South Africa in September.

The United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) said yesterday that Lloyd would coach under-24s and under-16s

Newport backing

The Welsh rugby union club, Newport, has signed a three-year sponsorship with the brewery, Amstel, which could be worth up to £100,000.

Tour additions

The New Zealand wing, Timo Targala, the loose forward, Pat Lam, and Mark Birtwistle, off Wellington, have joined the squad of the rugby union World Cup outsiders, Western Samoa, for a brief tour of Australia next week.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Derbyshire: SOUTHEND: Essex v Kent.

TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Lancashire.

UXBRIDGE: Middlesex v Northamptonshire.

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Somerset v Devon.

TRURO: Devon v Cornwall.

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ATHLETICS

Soviet Union team for Edinburgh is shorn of champions

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Soviet Union will bring the infamous but not the famous to Edinburgh on Friday when they compete against Britain in the McVitie's Challenge at Meadowbank. Dmitry Golovastov, whose European Cup relay leg last month is the subject of an ongoing controversy involving Britain, is included but the names which mean something on the international circuit are not.

The match is the second of two senior international fixtures in Britain this summer but the Soviet Union are not giving it the same treatment which Germany who included Katrin Krabbe, Gert Breuer and Jens-Peter Harold, did at Crystal Palace four weeks ago. The most notable absences are Sergey Bubka, the pole vault world-record holder, and Irina Sergeyeva, Europe's No. 1 woman sprinter.

Britain have committed 11 of their 12 individual-event European champions or European Cup winners, but the Soviet Union only one of their 11, the high jumper, Yelena Rodina. Even she may not

appear because four Soviets have been named for the three-a-side competition. Especially disappointing is the absence of Yelena Romanova, runner-up to Yvonne Murray in the European championship 3,000 metres last summer. Murray against Liz McColgan, straight from her personal best of 3min 38.23sec in Nice on Monday, would have been all the more entertaining for the presence of Romanova, who compensated for her 3,000 metres defeat in Split by winning the 10,000 metres.

Other Soviet European champions missing from the team sent yesterday to the British Amateur Athletic Board are Rodion Voloshin (pole vault), Leonid Voloshin (triple jump), Igor Astapkovich (hammer) and Tatyana Ledovskaya (400 metres hurdles). European Cup winners missing are Grigoriy Yegorov (pole vault), Margarita Ponomareva (400 metres hurdles), Natalya Lisovskaya (shot) and Lyudmila Narozhilenko (100 metres hurdles).

Andy Norman, Britain's

promotions officer, said that Igor Ter-Ovanesyan, the Soviet chief official, had told him they were "sending a men's team to win a team in form." Norman added: "It does not matter who the women send because they will beat us anyway."

Nevertheless, this appears to be a cost-cutting exercise by the impoverished Soviet federation as many of their squad are also heading for the World Student Games.

Ter-Ovanesyan's view lacks weight but Norman does not. Britain's women have no hope, the more so without Tessa Sanderson, their one European Cup winner, who is injured. And Britain's men will have to work hard to average decent by the Soviet Union in the European Cup. The Soviets took the cup from Britain after their 4x400 metres relay team was reinstated despite Golovastov clearly running out of his lane. British officials are awaiting a report from the European Athletic Association (EAA) before deciding whether to raise the matter with the EAA council.

Jackson plotting Olympic success

THE TIMES/MINNET SUPREME AWARD

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT



Colin Jackson, plotting Olympic success

ONLY Linford Christie among his fellow British athletes can equal the high level of consistency which Colin Jackson has shown through the last international championship cycle. These two alone have taken individual event medals from the 1987 world championships, the 1988 Olympics, and the Commonwealth Games and European championships of 1990.

"Because I have won medals in all of them I have got to start winning," Jackson said. He was not dismissing his Commonwealth and European 100 metres hurdles golds last year, but recognising that true greatness is measured by world and Olympic performances. Jackson was third in the Rome world championships and second in the Seoul Olympics.

He is adamant that his admitted technical flaws, which have set him in a trough of poor form, including defeats by Tony Jarrett, his compatriot, and Greg Foster, of the United States, will be resolved in time for the world championships in Tokyo six weeks hence. Jarrett and Foster are probably Jackson's two closest challengers for gold, but he said: "I am not worried."

The American is trying for his third successive world title, but Jackson added: "Losing to Foster did not concern me one little bit." Jackson underwent knee surgery in the winter and appears still to be suffering the effects.

He is confident, however, that it will not be long before he rediscovers lost territory: finishing times under 13.50sec in the 100 metres, and under 13.50sec in the 100 metres, and under 13.50sec in the 100 metres.

Britain did not win an athletics gold medal at the last Olympics and, to assist Jackson with his part in trying to make amends, he has received a £5,000 Times-



Jackson: plotting to overcome technical flaws and recover his consistency

record, set last year, is 13.08sec.

Beyond Tokyo, the Olympics await Jackson's greater attention. "World championship gold is just a step towards Olympic gold," he said. "I would give up everything else to win the Olympics."

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premise Awards are part of a £2 million sponsorship deal from Minnet - the London-based firm of international insurance brokers - to help fund Britain's preparations for the 1992 Olympics. The awards, which are administered by the Sports Aid Foundation, are being made to sportsmen and women whose outstanding performances have brought distinction and honour to British sport and are likely medal contenders.

YACHTING

Irish Sea scuppers youthful crews

By BARRY PICKTHALL

ROUGH weather in the Irish Sea has given young crews competing on the first stage of the Cutty Sark tall ships race a rugged initiation. Few of the crews have sailed before and early reports from the 86-strong fleet indicate that a third are prostrate with sea sickness as the ships struggle across the Irish Sea to Cork.

By yesterday morning, only a few of the faster vessels had rounded the Fastnet rock, and only one, the Irish ocean racer, Moonbuster, had completed the 208-mile course from Milford Haven.

Most of the Class A vessels, including the Polish three-master, Dar Miodziowy, with the circumnavigator, Tracy Edwards, among her crew, were not expected to reach the Fastnet before the time limit expired at midnight last night.

Kim Farness and Sarah Powell from Pentewan Sands lead the Saab Dart 18 catamaran world championship after a mix-up yesterday over marks ruled out 174 of the 300-strong fleet during the third race at Aberystoch.

The Cornish couple took the winning gun just ahead of the Richard brothers, victors of the first points race, who revelled in the 20-knot conditions. Stuart Snell, from Norfolk, crewed by his daughter, Catherine, Britain's Saab Dart racing circuit champions, finished third.

Leny Flynn, who led Monday's race until performing a spectacular pitch-pole capsize, suffered further bad luck yesterday. He was the unfortunate culprit who led much of the fleet around the wrong mark. He is considering swapping his boat for a set of golf clubs.

ABERYSTOCH: Saab Dart 18 world championship. Third points race: 1. K. Farness and S. Powell (GB); 2. O. Richard and J. Farness (GB); 3. S. Snell and C. Snell (GB); 4. C. Moore and G. Moore (GB); 5. A. Karsen and A. Karsen (GB); 6. I. Farness and R. Farness (GB); 7. S. Snell and C. Snell (GB); 8. R. Farness and I. Farness (GB); 9. S. Snell and C. Snell (GB); 10. R. Farness and I. Farness (GB).

SHOOTING

Overnight leader holds on

ARTHUR Clarke, a Commonwealth Games gold medal winner, held on to his lead in the Blesley Grand Aggregate in target rifle shooting, won the Hopton Challenge Cup and Match rifle championship, at Blesley yesterday, a title he had narrowly missed in the previous two years. (Our Rifle Shooting Correspondent writes.)

He had been leading by a single point overnight and increased the advantage to six over the runner-up, Nick Tremlett, in the final test for the Albert Cup at 1,100 and 1,200 yards, with last year's winner Stuart Collings in third place.

It was a setback for the traditional match-rifle shooters, who fire lying on their backs, because the top six were leading prone marksmen.

Piffa Schroder was the best of the "back-gunners" in eighth place, but traditionalists, in a team of four, from the Oxford and Cambridge Rifle Association won the F. W. Jones Trophy.

RESULTS: Hopton Cup (Match rifle championship): 1. A. Clarke (Army TRC), 555 pts; 2. Tremlett (Windsor), 552; 3. S. Collings (Windsor), 549; 4. S. Snell (Windsor), 546; 5. S. Snell (Windsor), 543; 6. S. Snell (Windsor), 540; 7. S. Snell (Windsor), 537; 8. S. Snell (Windsor), 534; 9. S. Snell (Windsor), 531; 10. S. Snell (Windsor), 528.

Trophy (Team of four at 1,000, 1,100 and 1,200 yards): 1. G. Farness, 2. S. Snell, 3. S. Snell, 4. S. Snell, 5. S. Snell, 6. S. Snell, 7. S. Snell, 8. S. Snell, 9. S. Snell, 10. S. Snell.

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WORLD STUDENT GAMES

Jianqiang's finishing burst ends Leishman's chances

By MARK HERBERT

SHEN Jianqiang continued China's dominance of the swimming competition when he won the men's 100 metres butterfly at Ponds Forge yesterday. He finished ahead of Andrei Kozlov, from the Soviet Union, in a personal best of 54.25sec.

For a moment it seemed that Britain's first finalist, the Scottish international, Rik Leishman, would give the home supporters a taste of success after a superb first leg. After a

close finish, however, he was consigned to fifth place.

Leishman, based at the University of South Carolina, won his heat in a personal best 55.44sec, the fifth fastest time. In the final he led at the turn but his advantage was wound in as Kozlov and Shen, on the far side, finished powerfully. Nonetheless, the Scot again broke his personal best, finishing in 55.20sec.

The other ray of hope for

Britain was provided by Andrew Rolley, who shot almost two seconds off his personal best in the men's 400 metres individual medley, to qualify fastest in 4min 27.13sec.

The Soviet Union gymnastics team finally prevailed in a desperately close struggle with the Japanese in the men's artistic competition yesterday. Britain, inspired by James May's performance, finished tenth out of 18 nations.

Jeffrey Hunter, the Oxford University tennis player, continued to be the lone flag-bearer for Britain in the singles. A knee injury means that his pre-match preparation consists of a session with the ice pack. Yesterday, he saved himself a surfeit of agony by disposing of the eighth seed, Dede Schenkra, of Indonesia, in 30 minutes. Hunter moves into the quarter-finals and today plays Tetsuya Sato, of Japan.

Some ghosts have returned for the English players in the football tournament. At Southampton on Monday night, Britain lost 1-0 to the United States, whose collegiate set-up is slightly more relevant to their international team than the host nation's. Baichor scored from a goalmouth scramble.

The result leaves Britain requiring a win against the Irish, a personal injury means that his pre-match preparation consists of a session with the ice pack. Yesterday, he saved himself a surfeit of agony by disposing of the eighth seed, Dede Schenkra, of Indonesia, in 30 minutes. Hunter moves into the quarter-finals and today plays Tetsuya Sato, of Japan.

The men's hockey teams, however, were banking in the twilight after scoring 24 goals between them in their opening matches. The men's victory over Poland, 9-0, was a proficient and clinical job well done; but there was a little criticism for the women over the chances they missed in their 1-0 drubbing of Zimbabwe.

Japan will provide a more realistic assessment of the British women's strength today, and the match against Canada, which has a core of Olympic hopefuls, will probably determine who finishes top of the group on Friday.

WATER POLO: Preliminary group matches: 1. Canada v Germany (2:0); 2. Canada v Russia (2:0); 3. Canada v Australia (2:0); 4. Canada v France (2:0); 5. Canada v Italy (2:0); 6. Canada v Japan (2:0); 7. Canada v South Korea (2:0); 8. Canada v Spain (2:0); 9. Canada v Netherlands (2:0); 10. Canada v Belgium (2:0); 11. Canada v Czech Republic (2:0); 12. Canada v Slovakia (2:0); 13. Canada v Hungary (2:0); 14. Canada v Poland (2:0); 15. Canada v Romania (2:0); 16. Canada v Bulgaria (2:0); 17. Canada v Greece (2:0); 18. Canada v Portugal (2:0); 19. Canada v Ireland (2:0); 20. Canada v Scotland (2:0); 21. Canada v Wales (2:0); 22. Canada v Northern Ireland (2:0); 23. Canada v Republic of Ireland (2:0); 24. Canada v Jersey (2:0); 25. Canada v Guernsey (2:0); 26. Canada v Jersey (2:0); 27. Canada v Guernsey (2:0); 28. Canada v Jersey (2:0); 29. Canada v Guernsey (2:0); 30. Canada v Jersey (2:0); 31. Canada v Guernsey (2:0); 32. Canada v Jersey (2:0); 33. Canada v Guernsey (2:0); 34. 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